



No Time to Waste

INDICATORS OF SCHOOL READINESS

2004 DATA BOOK





COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Mark R. Warner
Governor

April, 2004

My Fellow Virginians,

I believe the citizens of Virginia share a common concern for the education and well-being of all our children. As such, we have fostered an environment in which most of the children in the Commonwealth are on solid educational footing. We cannot afford, however, to waste the potential of any Virginia child.

Building on the strengths of families and communities, the foundation of educational success is laid well before kindergarten. The preponderance of evidence shows that students who enter school healthy and ready to learn have a better chance of success down the road. Too many of our children, however, are not ready for school. In the first few grades the achievement gap begins to widen, and unprepared students fall further behind. It becomes harder and harder for them to catch up to their peers.

Through the School Readiness Indicators project, Virginia has the significant opportunity to examine the variety of components that affect our children's preparedness for school. The Virginia School Readiness Indicators data book promises to be a valuable tool for Virginians as we work together to build the strongest possible foundation in order for children of the Commonwealth to have the best start possible. We must grapple with the good news—and the bad—and use the facts to guide our policy efforts to improve the educational outcomes of all our children.

As a business person, I've learned that wise investments often save money. We can make important early investments, or we can pay for more expensive interventions down the road. Now is the time to utilize this data to move from rhetoric to real action for the future of Virginia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark R. Warner".

Mark R. Warner

INDICATORS OF SCHOOL READINESS

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Executive Summary

AN IMPORTANT INGREDIENT FOR LIFE SUCCESS IS SCHOOL SUCCESS.

Preparing for school success starts at the very beginning of a child's life. Infants are born with the capacity to learn and engage in their environment, or as we say, are "wired to learn." The early childhood years lay a critical foundation that influences the effectiveness of subsequent education efforts. In fact, the rate of development from birth to kindergarten is faster than at any other period in one's life.

It is not just about knowing your letters and numbers. Children's readiness for school is multi-faceted, encompassing the whole range of physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and linguistic skills that children need to thrive.

In April of 2002, Virginia joined a 17-state initiative to identify and use child well-being indicators to improve school readiness. Awarded a three year grant of \$150,000 from the Ford Foundation, Governor Mark R. Warner launched the Virginia School Readiness Indicators Initiative and appointed a State Team with representatives from the Governor's Office; the Secretariats of Health and Human Resources and Education; the Virginia Departments of Health, Education, Social Services, and Medical Assistance Services; the General Assembly; and others involved in programs for young children. Virginia's State Team is chaired by Secretary of Health and Human Resources Jane Woods and staffed by Voices for Virginia's Children, a statewide child advocacy organization. The 17-state initiative has three goals:

1. create a set of measurable indicators related to and defining school readiness that can be tracked regularly over time at the state and local levels;
2. encourage states to adopt this indicators-based definition of school readiness, fill in the gaps in data availability, track data over time, and report findings to their citizens; and
3. stimulate policy, program, and other actions to improve the ability of all children to read at grade level by the end of the third grade.

This report is the first step in that process for Virginia. While there are data gaps that hamper our knowledge, the report contains key

data elements that are documented by an impressive body of research as impacting school readiness, and that are currently collected at the state and local levels. The regular reporting of indicators that describe the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive well-being of children enables policymakers and opinion leaders to identify areas most in need of intervention, track the results of their investments, and watch trends over time.

Now that the data are collected, the next step is the implementation of a communications strategy to promote the understanding and use of the indicators as a sound basis of knowledge and accountability toward the goal of school readiness. With greater recognition of how these measures impact school readiness, we can then use the

data to form the creation of a policy agenda. At both the state and local levels, initial policy improvements must be identified and persistently, creatively, and cooperatively addressed.

As Governor Mark Warner has stated: “In the crucial first years of a child’s life, we have a unique opportunity to lay the foundation for lifelong learning and achievement. The obstacles are daunting and the stakes enormous, but it’s time that we put Virginia’s youngest children first.”


The Virginia School Readiness Indicators Report moves us forward in seizing this important window of opportunity. The future of the Commonwealth will be shaped by how we nurture its children. There is no time to waste.

School Readiness Indicators At A Glance:

PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS LITERACY SCREENING FOR KINDERGARTEN (PALS- K)
3RD GRADE STANDARDS OF LEARNING ASSESSMENTS
TEEN BIRTHS
MATERNAL EDUCATION
PRENATAL CARE
LOW BIRTH WEIGHT
CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY
CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT
ELEVATED LEAD LEVELS
CHILD HEALTH INSURANCE
FOSTER CARE
CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES
EARLY INTERVENTION
PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION
HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START
AT-RISK 4 YEAR OLDS

For information, contact the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Commonwealth of Virginia, 804-786-7765.

Additional copies of this data book may be downloaded from www.vakids.org, Voices for Virginia's Children, 804-649-0184.



*"I am committed to all children
having a chance to succeed.
This means improving our
schools and improving our
children's readiness for school."*

- GOVERNOR MARK R. WARNER

Introduction

NO TIME TO WASTE

For the children of Virginia, healthy development in the first five years is a key contributor to school success and life success. Recent advances in the study of neurobiology and the behavioral and social sciences have created a rich storehouse of information on how children develop physically, socially, emotionally, cognitively, and behaviorally. Each of these areas of development is critical to school readiness, school success, and ultimately life success. Early investments in children and families create a solid foundation for school success. What are the components of this foundation? How can we utilize this knowledge to shape policies that impact the development of Virginia's children?

To address these questions, Governor Mark Warner appointed Jane Woods, Secretary of Health and Human Resources, as Chair of the Virginia School Readiness Indicators Initiative, part of a multi-state effort created to fill the gaps in information on young children from birth through school entry. Governor Warner appointed a State Team with representatives from the Governor's Office; the Secretariats of Education and Health and Human Resources; the Virginia Departments of Health, Education, Social Services, and Medical Assistance Services; the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates, and other representatives involved in programs for young children and their families. Voices for Virginia's Children, a statewide child advocacy organization, staffs the initiative. The School Readiness Indicators Initiative is funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation in seventeen states; Virginia was awarded a grant of \$150,000 from the Ford Foundation for a three-year initiative beginning April 1, 2002.

WHY FOCUS ON THE FIRST FIVE YEARS?

A child who enters school ready to succeed has been influenced by a myriad of forces in place before conception. At birth, and through infancy, toddlerhood, and the preschool years, a child's brain, body, and personality will be shaped by experiences that will either prepare the child for success or set up obstacles that will be barriers to learning.

Before birth, the mother's health and prenatal care will help determine if her baby will thrive outside the womb. Poor health of the mother or a lifestyle that includes alcohol, drugs, tobacco, toxins, or poor nutrition may produce a child who will be unable to focus on schoolwork or regulate emotions and behavior. During infancy, millions of neural connections are being shaped by the experiences of the baby. Not being held, spoken to, or played with,

or the lack of stimulating toys may lead to a child who will not develop the brain frameworks necessary to optimally learn and retain information.

During the first few years of life, a child is also developing the brain capacity required to trust and work with others and to accept and give love. Environmental factors have a significant effect on how the brain is wired and can either enhance or impede cognitive development. Factors such as the mother's vocabulary, cognitive stimulation, and stability of the home environment are all strongly associated with a child's cognitive development. Research indicates that exposure to learning opportunities such as reading to a child every day and positive reinforcement enhance a child's readiness to learn when he or she arrives at school.

As the growing child interacts with the environment, the presence of toxins, pollutants, and diseases may damage the brain and impede intellectual and physical growth. The child who has adequate medical care and access to proper nutrition to ensure proper brain growth will enter school ready to succeed.

COMPONENTS OF SCHOOL READINESS

Each of the school readiness indicators included in this report impacts a child in one or more domains, including social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. Each is pivotal to school readiness and eventual school success.

Research states that the relationship of cognitive development to school readiness is critical. Important aspects of cognitive development include achievement of milestones critical for learning, such as recognition of shapes, letters, colors, counting skills, and other reading and math readiness skills. These skills are dependent on the development of mental frameworks built well before the child enters school.

Emotional development is also important to school success, because how a child feels about and approaches learning is as important as what the child knows. Elements of emotional development include self-control, which allows the child to participate in a structured classroom setting; self regulation, which helps the child focus attention on teachers and learning materials; and frustration tolerance, which provides the child with elements necessary to attempt new things and cope with challenges. Enthusiasm for learning and curiosity

is also vital to the child's success, and is developed through early childhood experiences.

Social development is important to school readiness, as it shapes the child's interactions with teachers and other pupils. Early experiences help determine if a child will be eager to please the teacher, cope with the social challenges of the classroom, ask questions, and work with other children cooperatively to explore and master the learning environment.

Physical development of the child is also critical, as a healthy body allows the child to focus more fully on the important tasks of learning. A child who is properly nourished, rested, and who receives regular preventive medical and dental care is more able to receive and retain knowledge and develop essential skills.



LEVELS OF INDICATORS

Each of the indicators affects the child at the individual, family, and community level. Many of the indicators impact several areas of development, as the domains all depend on brain growth, and are therefore interrelated. Each of the levels is strongly impacted by the surrounding economic, political, and cultural climate.

Indicators at the child level are affected by factors within the family and community. Child indicators include the child's health status and special needs due to genetic or health anomalies, in addition to what the child knows and can do.

Family indicators impact the child because they influence the intimate setting in which the child develops. They include indicators that affect the health of the family and readiness to parent a developing child. Factors at the community level are included because they relate to the local support of the family and child. They suggest safety of the living environment, resources available to the child and parents, and the ability of the community to nurture healthy children and families.

SELECTION OF INDICATORS

The indicators selected for this project all meet certain criteria:

- 1) Indicators have been cited in the scientific literature to be independently related to school success.

School success is not determined by a simple formula, or by individual indicators. Instead, factors interact to produce the building blocks of school readiness. For example, economic status does not solely determine school success, although we know it is a vital component because money impacts other factors that are related to school readiness, such as adequate health care and nutrition, parental availability, and helpful community resources. Scientific methods allow researchers to consider how a factor contributes on its own to school readiness. Factors having a unique relationship to school readiness that are adequately explained by theory are included.

- 2) Indicators represent available and reliable statistics for Virginia, and can be tracked over time.

Many of the elements that are critical to school readiness are difficult to measure or track. For example, adequate health care is important, but reliable numbers and rates of Virginia children who receive regular health care are not readily available. However, information pertaining to the number of Virginia's children who have adequate health insurance is available. Given that those who have health insurance are more likely to receive adequate health care, the rate of insured children is used as a proxy measure for the receipt of pediatric health care in Virginia.

The goals of this project require that we compare how Virginia's children are doing over time. In the same way that we track children's progress on standardized tests of

learning and achievement, we must also be aware of changes in the factors that influence success and correct identified systemic weaknesses.

- 3) Indicators represent factors that influence development and can be targeted and changed through policy efforts.

The factors that influence school readiness are complex and multifaceted. However, they are also dynamic and subject to political, cultural, and economic forces.

Through consistent, targeted, and well-focused efforts, these indicators can be impacted so they will have positive influences on the success of Virginia's children.

Virginia is part of a 17-state initiative to identify and use child well-being indicators to improve school readiness and ensure early school success. The objectives of the initiative include

- Exploring how to best use child development research to make informed policy and program decisions within the state;
- Developing a set of school readiness indicators that reflect child outcomes (physical, health, social and emotional development, and cognitive skills) as well as system outcomes; and
- Identifying ways that child well-being indicators can be used to shape policy that improves outcomes for children and families.

Data reports were not always available for the indicators that the state team felt would be the most beneficial in providing information about school readiness in Virginia. However, an important part of the work of the State Team has been a rich discussion of school readiness and the opportunity for interaction across several state agencies. This School Readiness Indicators Report provides a framework for collecting a wide array of information on factors that impact the lives of preschool children and affect their readiness to succeed in school. Using this information, individuals responsible for making decisions affecting young children have the opportunity to make those decisions with timely and accurate data, and to better ensure that all of Virginia's children are ready to succeed when they enter school.

The environments we provide for our youngest citizens warrant our best attention and our best efforts.



Benchmarks

Child Assessments Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening for Kindergarten (PALS-K)

2002-2003 KINDERGARTEN
STUDENTS IDENTIFIED AS
NEEDING ADDITIONAL
INTERVENTION UNDER
THE EARLY INTERVENTION
READING INITIATIVE (EIRI)

Are our children ready to succeed when they enter kindergarten?

There has been increasing pressure in recent years for school children to pass high-stakes tests to document school achievement. In Virginia, there is a need to track child specific information on school readiness. A child's learning begins at birth and so does school readiness. School readiness is the culmination of the experiences and care a child receives from birth to five years of age.

School readiness depends on a child's well-being. Two conditions are essential:

- 1) a stable and loving relationship with primary caregivers who respond to and interact with the child, protect the child from harm, encourage exploration and learning, and transmit cultural values; and
- 2) a safe, predictable environment that stimulates the child's growth and provides a range of experience that promote all aspects of development (cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, moral, and physical) as well as good health.

Children's school readiness involves more than learning the alphabet and how to count. It involves all aspects of development, including learning to share, express feelings, or communicate with others; learning to run and jump, draw pictures or build with blocks, and more. Assessing all of these areas in every child would be difficult, time consuming, and expensive.

Although there is no current universal "readiness" assessment, Virginia administers a screening tool to identify students who are at risk for reading difficulties. The Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening for Kindergarten (PALS-K) is a screening tool used by school divisions in Virginia to identify students who are below grade level expectations in important literacy fundamentals. Developed by reading researchers at the University of Virginia, PALS-K focuses on phonological awareness, alphabet knowledge, knowledge of letter sounds, spelling, and concept of word. Students who are below expectations are identified for additional instruction, which is funded through Virginia's Early Intervention Reading Initiative (EIRI). Although participation in EIRI is not mandatory, nearly all school divisions in Virginia choose to participate (98% or 130 of 132 divisions in 2002-2003 participated). Those who do participate screen all of their kindergarten students in the fall of the school year. In fall of 2002, 74,666 kindergartners in Virginia were screened using PALS-K and 15,194 (20.3%) were identified as needing additional instruction.

Data in the first chart indicate the number of kindergarten children screened by locality using PALS-K and the number and percentage of children identified as needing additional intervention under the EIRI. Note that two school divisions do not participate, and that the number of children screened in some localities is very small.

PALS-K: 2002/2003 KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS IDENTIFIED AS NEEDING ADDITIONAL INTERVENTION UNDER THE EARLY INTERVENTION READING INITIATIVE (EIRI)

LOCALITY	NUMBER SCREENED	NUMBER IDENTIFIED	PERCENT IDENTIFIED	LOCALITY	NUMBER SCREENED	NUMBER IDENTIFIED	PERCENT IDENTIFIED
Virginia	74666	15194	20.3	King William	149	38	25.5
Accomack	374	104	27.8	Lancaster	94	17	18.1
Albemarle	885	142	16.0	Lee	302	50	16.6
Alexandria	1022	312	30.5	Lexington	56	3	5.4
Alleghany	228	10	4.4	Loudoun	2951	397	13.5
Amelia	130	38	29.2	Louisa	283	68	24.0
Amherst	325	58	17.8	Lunenburg	115	35	30.4
Appomattox	180	19	10.6	Lynchburg	667	145	21.7
Arlington	1601	347	21.7	Madison	121	14	11.6
Augusta	698	133	19.1	Manassas	456	176	38.6
Bath	43	7	16.3	Manassas Park	186	48	25.8
Bedford City	included in Bedford County			Martinsville	192	52	27.1
Bedford County	795	144	18.1	Mathews	95	24	25.3
Bland	61	12	19.7	Mecklenburg	357	72	20.2
Botetourt	336	75	22.3	Middlesex	80	22	27.5
Bristol	172	24	14.0	Montgomery	717	167	23.3
Brunswick	182	41	22.5	Nelson	135	41	30.4
Buchanan	276	63	22.8	New Kent	183	44	24.0
Buckingham	145	42	29.0	Newport News	2257	363	16.1
Buena Vista	98	22	22.4	Norfolk	2916	796	27.3
Campbell	681	128	18.8	Northampton	129	39	30.2
Caroline	264	54	20.5	Northumberland	83	19	22.9
Carroll	317	107	33.8	Norton	36	9	25.0
Charles City	62	18	29.0	Nottoway	163	36	22.1
Charlotte	147	21	14.3	Orange	277	90	32.5
Charlottesville	331	85	25.7	Page	268	82	30.6
Chesapeake	2243	363	16.2	Patrick	215	66	30.7
Chesterfield	3628	659	18.2	Petersburg	297	88	29.6
Clarke	126	14	11.1	Pittsylvania	652	153	23.5
Colonial Beach	38	5	13.2	Poquoson	137	17	12.4
Colonial Heights	178	49	27.5	Portsmouth	1298	306	23.6
Covington	50	15	30.0	Powhatan	241	47	19.5
Craig	52	8	15.4	Prince Edward	187	20	10.7
Culpeper	421	83	19.7	Prince George	400	64	16.0
Cumberland	105	13	12.4	Prince William	not participating		
Danville	523	170	32.5	Pulaski	345	111	32.2
Dickenson	188	49	26.1	Radford	110	32	29.1
Dinwiddie	280	70	25.0	Rappahannock	70	14	20.0
Emporia	included in Greensville			Richmond City	2060	609	29.6
Essex	87	31	35.6	Richmond County	86	37	43.0
Fairfax City	included in Fairfax County			Roanoke City	1097	334	30.4
Fairfax County	8259	1017	12.3	Roanoke County	911	89	9.8
Falls Church	114	7	6.1	Rockbridge	162	34	21.0
Fauquier	764	143	18.7	Rockingham	785	200	25.5
Floyd	149	25	16.8	Russell	306	69	22.5
Fluvanna	256	60	23.4	Salem	305	48	15.7
Franklin City	82	22	26.8	Scott	263	61	23.2
Franklin County	511	108	21.1	Shenandoah	409	82	20.0
Frederick	752	171	22.7	Smyth	377	101	26.8
Fredericksburg	186	43	23.1	Southampton	168	37	22.0
Galax	113	35	31.0	Spotsylvania	1564	411	26.3
Giles	166	54	32.5	Stafford	1611	308	19.1
Gloucester	368	70	19.0	Staunton	159	44	27.7
Goochland	161	31	19.3	Suffolk	925	157	17.0
Grayson	169	35	20.7	Surry	75	14	18.7
Greene	204	29	14.2	Sussex	90	43	47.8
Greensville	180	35	19.4	Tazewell	503	124	24.7
Halifax	458	100	21.8	Virginia Beach	4918	987	20.1
Hampton	1429	303	21.2	Warren	325	88	27.1
Hanover	1288	147	11.4	Washington	488	38	7.8
Harrisonburg	329	148	45.0	Waynesboro	242	47	19.4
Henrico	2934	542	18.5	West Point	52	1	1.9
Henry	571	142	24.9	Westmoreland	126	41	32.5
Highland	13	3	23.1	Williamsburg	not participating		
Hopewell	308	80	26.0	Winchester	274	71	25.9
Isle of Wight	333	70	21.0	Wise	498	110	22.1
James City	included in Williamsburg			Wythe	324	128	39.5
King and Queen	62	10	16.1	York	693	105	15.2
King George	219	46	21.0				

Standards of Learning (SOLs)

2002 SPRING PERCENTAGES OF CHILDREN
PASSING 3RD GRADE STANDARDS
OF LEARNING ASSESSMENTS (SOLS)

Virginia's 3rd Grade Standards of Learning assessments measure how well a child is doing in school at the end of the first four years. If a child is not doing well by the time he/she is in third grade, he/she is at high risk of continuing to fall behind. Certainly the 3rd Grade Standards of Learning assessments are an important indicator of whether a child is ready to start 4th grade. What we do not know is whether that child came to kindergarten ready and then failed in school or whether the child was not ready for kindergarten and has never caught up. The answer to that question has important policy implications.

Students in Virginia take the Standards of Learning assessments for the first time in the 3rd grade. Third grade Standards of Learning scores are reported for all school divisions and are taken by all students. They provide the first universal child assessment.

Students in the first few years of school must learn the basic skills of reading and mathematics that will allow higher levels of learning in the subsequent grades. Students need to be able to read on grade level by the end of the third grade in order to use their reading skills to master the content they will encounter throughout the rest of their academic careers. From fourth grade on, reading and mathematics skills are used to learn other subjects. For these reasons, achievement scores at the end of the third grade serve as powerful predictors of later school success.

It is important that any skill problems detected in the early years be remediated as early as possible. Failure to do so may result in school failure and school drop out. The first three years of elementary school are dedicated to teaching students to learn to read; the remaining years are dedicated toward using reading to learn. This change in direction in the goal of teaching makes it crucial that a child be armed with the skills needed to accomplish the tasks ahead.

Virginia's Standards of Learning were adopted in the summer of 1995 by the state Board of Education to emphasize the importance of instruction in four core subject areas: English, mathematics, history/social studies, and science. They set minimum requirements at each grade level in each of the core subjects and set targets for what teachers need to teach and students need to learn. They were developed to provide clear, concise, and measurable expectations for students. Data reported are third grade spring 2002 (end of the third grade school year) percentages of students passing the four Standards of Learning tests by school division.

3rd Grade Standards of Learning: 2002 SPRING PERCENTAGES OF STUDENTS PASSING 3RD GRADE STANDARDS OF LEARNING ASSESSMENTS

LOCALITY	PERCENT 3RD GRADE STUDENTS PASSING:			
	ENGLISH	MATH	HISTORY	SCIENCE
Virginia	72	80	76	78
Accomack	64	75	67	69
Albemarle	76	82	78	83
Alexandria	58	70	67	66
Alleghany	75	87	76	83
Amelia	65	72	73	67
Amherst	59	77	73	75
Appomattox	72	76	83	79
Arlington	75	84	80	78
Augusta	63	78	81	78
Bath	64	80	79	78
Bedford City	included in Bedford County			
Bedford County	70	79	74	78
Bland	48	70	51	68
Botetourt	79	89	87	89
Bristol	65	80	80	76
Brunswick	42	63	52	49
Buchanan	41	60	55	59
Buckingham	63	83	72	69
Buena Vista	89	86	90	92
Campbell	76	83	75	81
Caroline	50	65	65	65
Carroll	57	79	71	74
Charles City	67	65	60	66
Charlotte	80	93	85	83
Charlottesville	63	63	61	65
Chesapeake	73	87	76	79
Chesterfield	86	89	88	87
Clarke	74	90	88	89
Colonial Beach	56	72	80	67
Colonial Heights	87	87	87	91
Covington	52	60	64	69
Craig	63	71	79	83
Culpeper	72	81	72	80
Cumberland	45	51	59	59
Danville	51	59	61	63
Dickenson	64	76	73	79
Dinwiddie	67	84	64	68
Emporia	included in Greensville			
Essex	61	67	35	53
Fairfax City	included in Fairfax County			
Fairfax County	79	85	83	83
Falls Church	81	82	82	82
Fauquier	77	84	84	84
Floyd	67	76	79	84
Fluvanna	76	75	71	76
Franklin City	47	64	59	60
Franklin County	83	90	84	89
Frederick	76	84	83	86
Fredericksburg	69	72	59	72
Galax	73	84	82	85
Giles	71	94	80	86
Gloucester	71	83	82	84
Goochland	71	91	90	89
Grayson	50	60	57	64
Greene	70	77	78	76
Greensville	44	63	49	48
Halifax	63	78	73	75
Hampton	71	78	74	72
Hanover	87	88	86	91
Harrisonburg	67	82	82	82
Henrico	85	88	87	86
Henry	69	83	87	83
Highland	83	96	92	96
Hopewell	74	79	72	77
Isle of Wight	61	79	79	74
James City	included in Williamsburg			
King and Queen	78	78	87	78
King George	72	80	75	77

LOCALITY	PERCENT 3RD GRADE STUDENTS PASSING:			
	ENGLISH	MATH	HISTORY	SCIENCE
King William	79	73	70	74
Lancaster	86	88	84	85
Lee	71	86	85	84
Lexington	73	84	80	78
Loudoun	81	89	84	87
Louisa	63	71	69	72
Lunenburg	67	69	63	70
Lynchburg	70	79	76	78
Madison	78	82	81	86
Manassas	75	85	81	78
Manassas Park	59	86	68	67
Martinsville	53	59	53	53
Mathews	69	79	73	77
Mecklenburg	72	76	67	76
Middlesex	87	86	66	84
Montgomery	60	74	69	77
Nelson	52	74	61	73
New Kent	78	82	75	80
Newport News	62	73	67	71
Norfolk	58	73	66	66
Northampton	55	74	70	66
Northumberland	65	87	71	74
Norton	60	87	78	81
Nottoway	68	72	68	66
Orange	59	74	66	69
Page	76	91	84	84
Patrick	83	90	89	88
Petersburg	45	46	44	45
Pittsylvania	60	75	76	73
Poquoson	86	92	87	91
Portsmouth	64	65	58	65
Powhatan	80	87	70	87
Prince Edward	42	50	52	52
Prince George	78	83	73	78
Prince William	69	77	76	75
Pulaski	52	76	65	76
Radford	67	86	79	84
Rappahannock	64	86	63	69
Richmond City	54	60	55	62
Richmond County	63	71	68	71
Roanoke City	56	64	63	67
Roanoke County	79	86	84	87
Rockbridge	62	75	68	80
Rockingham	76	89	89	89
Russell	72	86	83	87
Salem	84	94	95	94
Scott	85	93	88	87
Shenandoah	72	85	82	84
Smyth	73	87	86	86
Southampton	59	55	44	58
Spotsylvania	72	82	77	80
Stafford	70	84	84	82
Staunton	65	83	80	75
Suffolk	59	78	68	70
Surry	79	72	61	71
Sussex	60	57	41	61
Tazewell	68	83	77	81
Virginia Beach	77	85	76	79
Warren	66	76	67	75
Washington	72	84	76	82
Waynesboro	64	75	76	73
West Point	77	87	79	81
Westmoreland	48	57	48	57
Williamsburg	82	81	77	82
Winchester	66	83	71	79
Wise	70	85	80	76
Wythe	62	71	68	76
York	82	84	81	85



The children ready to succeed in school are those who are happy, healthy, well-adjusted, and eager to learn. They are functioning at a developmentally appropriate level in all skill areas and bring a wealth of experiences they can verbalize appropriately. They have been read to, talked with, and have learned to interact positively with peers. They know letters, colors, and can sing simple songs. Their world is an exciting place.

Children not ready to succeed in school are those who are sad, anxious, fearful, hungry, unhealthy, or insecure.

They have limited vocabularies and limited verbal skills. They have not been read to, and have been encouraged to be quiet, rather than interactive. They are disruptive and other children find them difficult to be around. They have witnessed violence, have not felt safe in their own yards or homes, and have gone to bed hungry or lonely. Their world is a place in which they struggle to get by.

Child, family, and community indicators tell us about the conditions under which young children are living in the years before they enter school. They relate to important statistics about Virginia's children (rates of low birth weight, elevated lead, and health insurance coverage); to the state of our families (prenatal care, age and education of mothers, poverty levels, child abuse and neglect, and foster care); and the supportive resources of communities (early intervention and special education enrollments, Head Start, Early Head Start and At-Risk 4 Year Old Programs and child care subsidies). Collectively, these indicators tell us a lot about the level of support young children and their families can expect from the communities in which they live. Thriving communities commit adequate resources to support all of their citizens, including young children.

It is important to remember that no single indicator can capture all of the relevant factors that make up a child's readiness for school. They need to be looked at collectively, as a whole, because each individual indicator adds a piece of information. They do not give us answers, but they give us information that points us in the right direction.

Indicators: Child, Family, & Community

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT VIRGINIA'S YOUNG CHILDREN THAT IMPACTS THEIR READINESS FOR SCHOOL?

These indicators tell us about the conditions under which our young children are living in the years before they enter school. A child's health status is critical to his/her school readiness and school performance. Healthy children have abundant energy, are curious, engaged in learning, and are able to focus their attention on the activities at hand – all important skills required for school success. Research on children entering kindergarten has found that the environmental impacts of family risk factors like low maternal education and poverty are directly associated with lower ability in early reading, math, and general knowledge.¹ Children with poor health and risk factors like these are less likely to arrive at school ready to learn.

"We continue to grapple with the reality that too many children come to school unprepared to learn – for many preventable reasons."

**- JANE WOODS, SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN RESOURCES**

¹ V.E. Lee & D.T. Burkham, (2002). *Inequality at the Starting Gate: Social Background Differences in Achievement as Children Begin School*. Washington, D.C.: Economic Policy Institute.

Teen Births

2002 BIRTHS TO TEENS

Research shows that children of teens face great disadvantages.² Teen mothers are much less likely to receive prenatal care and are much more likely to have low birth weight babies, with a higher probability of health problems such as blindness, deafness, mental retardation, and cerebral palsy. Despite the increased health problems their children may have, teen mothers seek health care for their children less often than non-teen mothers, often resulting in ongoing serious health problems. Children of teen mothers are more likely to grow up without their fathers, receive less attention from adults, and have fewer chances for cognitive stimulation.³

More than 80 percent of teen mothers live in poverty during the child's critically important developmental years. Children of teen mothers attain lower cognitive and educational levels, see lower academic success, and are more likely to have behavior problems.⁴

The information on the following page represents the number of births to teens under age 18, including births to teens younger than 15 and between ages 15 to 17, the rate per 1,000 for births to teens ages 15 to 17, and the number of those births that are the teen's second or third child. The locality represents the mother's reported place of residence. The average rate in Virginia was 22 per 1,000.

²R. Maynard (ed.) (1996). *Kids Having Kids, A report for the Robin Hood Foundation*. New York, NY: The Robin Hood Foundation.

³R. Maynard (ed.) (1996). *Kids Having Kids, A report for the Robin Hood Foundation*. New York, NY: The Robin Hood Foundation.

⁴K.A. Moore, D.R. Morrison, & A.D. Greene (1997). Effects on children born to adolescent mothers. In R.A. Maynard (ed.). *Kids Having Kids: Economic Costs and Social Consequences of Teen Pregnancy*. The Urban Institute Press.

Teen Births: 2002 BIRTHS TO TEENAGED MOTHERS

LOCALITY	2002 NUMBER BIRTHS TO MOTHERS <15	NUMBER BIRTHS TO MOTHERS 15-17	AGES 15-17 BIRTH RATE PER 1,000	UNDER 18 NUMBER OF BIRTHS THAT ARE 2ND OR 3RD BIRTHS
Virginia	169	2,746	19	243
Accomack	1	26	33	3
Albemarle	0	18	11	2
Alexandria	4	43	36	5
Alleghany	1	1	3	0
Amelia	1	10	39	1
Amherst	2	8	12	0
Appomattox	1	8	27	1
Arlington	3	30	15	5
Augusta	0	28	20	0
Bath	0	0	0	0
Bedford City	0	2	19	0
Bedford County	1	26	19	1
Bland	0	1	8	0
Botetourt	0	7	11	0
Bristol	0	6	21	1
Brunswick	0	9	26	2
Buchanan	0	10	19	2
Buckingham	0	7	20	1
Buena Vista	2	4	37	1
Campbell	1	23	22	2
Caroline	1	8	17	0
Carroll	1	13	27	2
Charles City	1	1	7	0
Charlotte	0	5	19	0
Charlottesville	1	20	41	1
Chesapeake	8	75	15	12
Chesterfield	3	53	8	3
Clarke	0	3	11	0
Colonial Heights	0	5	16	1
Covington	0	1	10	1
Craig	0	1	11	0
Culpeper	0	15	19	0
Cumberland	0	5	29	0
Danville	5	38	42	1
Dickenson	0	11	34	0
Dinwiddie	1	6	11	0
Emporia	2	12	97	2
Essex	1	4	18	1
Fairfax City	0	4	11	0
Fairfax County	11	166	8	12
Falls Church	0	0	0	0
Fauquier	0	21	15	1
Floyd	0	2	8	1
Fluvanna	0	4	10	1
Franklin City	0	4	19	0
Franklin County	0	15	15	1
Frederick	2	23	18	1
Fredericksburg	0	14	57	2
Galax	0	6	53	0
Giles	0	6	20	0
Gloucester	0	9	10	2
Goochland	0	2	7	0
Grayson	0	6	20	1
Greene	1	11	31	2
Greensville	1	6	36	1
Halifax	0	18	26	2
Hampton	8	76	26	3
Hanover	1	12	6	0
Harrisonburg	0	20	43	2
Henrico	6	71	14	9
Henry	2	19	17	2
Highland	0	0	0	0
Hopewell	4	20	42	2
Isle Of Wight	1	10	16	0
James City Co.	2	9	8	0
King And Queen	0	1	7	0
King George	1	5	14	1

LOCALITY	2002 NUMBER BIRTHS TO MOTHERS <15	NUMBER BIRTHS TO MOTHERS 15-17	AGES 15-17 BIRTH RATE PER 1,000	UNDER 18 NUMBER OF BIRTHS THAT ARE 2ND OR 3RD BIRTHS
King William	0	4	14	0
Lancaster	0	7	33	2
Lee	0	8	17	1
Lexington	0	1	14	0
Loudoun	1	26	7	1
Louisa	0	11	19	1
Lunenburg	0	8	30	0
Lynchburg	3	47	40	2
Madison	0	2	7	0
Manassas	0	17	21	0
Manassas Park	0	7	31	1
Martinsville	0	12	40	1
Mathews	0	4	28	0
Mecklenburg	0	17	28	2
Middlesex	0	3	16	0
Montgomery	1	16	13	0
Nelson	0	5	16	0
New Kent	1	5	15	0
Newport News	8	98	25	10
Norfolk	8	177	42	18
Northampton	0	6	21	1
Northumberland	1	7	32	0
Norton	0	1	14	0
Nottoway	0	12	39	1
Orange	0	10	18	0
Page	0	20	44	1
Patrick	0	7	20	0
Petersburg	2	38	51	6
Pittsylvania	3	28	22	1
Poquoson	0	1	3	0
Portsmouth	11	81	40	11
Powhatan	0	4	8	0
Prince Edward	0	5	14	0
Prince George	1	9	12	0
Prince William	5	135	19	9
Pulaski	2	14	23	0
Radford	0	3	18	0
Rappahannock	0	2	13	0
Richmond City	17	198	63	28
Richmond County	0	5	28	0
Roanoke City	4	61	39	6
Roanoke County	4	26	15	2
Rockbridge	0	9	22	0
Rockingham	1	20	14	0
Russell	0	8	14	0
Salem	0	4	8	0
Scott	0	11	24	1
Shenandoah	0	19	27	1
Smyth	0	18	30	2
Southampton	0	7	21	1
Spotsylvania	1	29	12	3
Stafford	2	29	11	3
Staunton	1	15	31	0
Suffolk	4	45	29	5
Surry	1	2	11	2
Sussex	0	6	30	1
Tazewell	0	16	19	5
Virginia Beach	2	136	14	8
Warren	0	14	19	0
Washington	1	23	25	2
Waynesboro	0	8	20	0
Westmoreland	0	11	30	2
Williamsburg	0	2	22	0
Winchester	1	12	30	0
Wise	1	30	40	3
Wythe	1	14	25	2
York	0	7	4	0

Maternal Education

2002 PERCENTAGE OF BIRTHS
TO MOTHERS WITH LESS THAN
12TH GRADE EDUCATION

Maternal education is highly associated with the achievement of children. Parental education attainment affects the quality of the home environment, which is important to school readiness. Children exposed to reading in the early years experience greater success in reading upon school entry.⁵ There is evidence that improving the education of mothers during the child's first three years of life can have a significant effect on the child's receptive vocabulary, which is a skill necessary for success in school.⁶

The following data show the number and percent of babies born in 2002 to mothers with less than 12 years of education. The locality is the mother's reported place of residence. The percent of babies born to mothers without a high school education in Virginia was 15%.

⁵ S. Halsall & C. Green (1995). Reading aloud: A way for parents to support their children's growth in literacy. *Early Childhood Education Journal*, 23(1), 27-31.

⁶ J. Shonkoff & D. Phillips, (eds), (2000). *From Neurons to Neighborhoods*. Washington, D.C.: The National Academy Press.

Maternal Education: 2002 PERCENTAGE OF BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITH LESS THAN 12TH GRADE EDUCATION

LOCALITY	2002 TOTAL BIRTHS	NUMBER BIRTHS TO MOTHERS <12TH GRADE EDUCATION	PERCENT BIRTHS TO MOTHERS <12TH GRADE EDUCATION
Virginia	99,235	14,643	15%
Accomack	477	165	35%
Albemarle	973	116	12%
Alexandria	2,208	307	14%
Alleghany	156	14	9%
Amelia	151	28	19%
Amherst	325	49	15%
Appomattox	145	28	19%
Arlington	2,686	411	15%
Augusta	715	101	14%
Bath	35	4	11%
Bedford City	53	8	15%
Bedford County	573	70	12%
Bland	55	4	7%
Botetourt	297	16	5%
Bristol	190	33	17%
Brunswick	179	37	21%
Buchanan	234	54	23%
Buckingham	160	39	24%
Buena Vista	56	14	25%
Campbell	616	84	14%
Caroline	283	33	12%
Carroll	296	68	23%
Charles City	78	13	17%
Charlotte	145	37	26%
Charlottesville	491	95	19%
Chesapeake	2,744	318	12%
Chesterfield	3,337	386	12%
Clarke	115	14	12%
Colonial Heights	204	42	21%
Covington	60	8	13%
Craig	49	4	8%
Culpeper	501	73	15%
Cumberland	101	20	20%
Danville	588	179	30%
Dickenson	166	32	19%
Dinwiddie	256	36	14%
Emporia	96	36	38%
Essex	120	16	13%
Fairfax City	270	31	11%
Fairfax County	14,804	1870	13%
Falls Church	92	2	2%
Fauquier	729	84	12%
Floyd	158	10	6%
Fluvanna	301	26	9%
Franklin City	137	29	21%
Franklin County	518	74	14%
Frederick	822	126	15%
Fredericksburg	356	74	21%
Galax	111	39	35%
Giles	212	23	11%
Gloucester	413	55	13%
Goochland	190	12	6%
Grayson	170	37	22%
Greene	245	43	18%
Greensville	108	30	28%
Halifax	421	87	21%
Hampton	1,867	264	14%
Hanover	1,069	63	6%
Harrisonburg	491	170	35%
Henrico	3,703	363	10%
Henry	611	158	26%
Highland	16	1	6%
Hopewell	334	94	28%
Isle of Wight	358	57	16%
James City	466	47	10%
King and Queen	63	8	13%
King George	254	26	10%

LOCALITY	2002 TOTAL BIRTHS	NUMBER BIRTHS TO MOTHERS <12TH GRADE EDUCATION	PERCENT BIRTHS TO MOTHERS <12TH GRADE EDUCATION
King William	194	22	11%
Lancaster	108	25	23%
Lee	243	47	19%
Lexington	33	4	12%
Loudoun	4,192	249	6%
Louisa	333	57	17%
Lunenburg	109	25	23%
Lynchburg	887	167	19%
Madison	157	21	13%
Manassas	683	200	29%
Manassas Park	241	69	29%
Martinsville	180	47	26%
Mathews	91	11	12%
Mecklenburg	344	62	18%
Middlesex	76	14	18%
Montgomery	779	96	12%
Nelson	147	20	14%
New Kent	159	17	11%
Newport News	3,170	477	15%
Norfolk	4,119	808	20%
Northampton	135	39	29%
Northumberland	108	24	22%
Norton	23	2	9%
Nottoway	196	48	24%
Orange	324	48	15%
Page	284	56	20%
Patrick	169	32	19%
Petersburg	530	175	33%
Pittsylvania	658	120	18%
Poquoson	93	5	5%
Portsmouth	1,539	362	24%
Powhatan	279	20	7%
Prince Edward	195	48	25%
Prince George	348	42	12%
Prince William	5,655	818	14%
Pulaski	324	48	15%
Radford	127	15	12%
Rappahannock	77	10	13%
Richmond City	3,081	886	29%
Richmond County	92	14	15%
Roanoke City	1,114	240	22%
Roanoke County	1,020	91	9%
Rockbridge	219	37	17%
Rockingham	913	219	24%
Russell	305	44	14%
Salem	219	15	7%
Scott	215	42	20%
Shenandoah	412	69	17%
Smyth	320	57	18%
Southampton	133	24	18%
Spotsylvania	1,617	115	7%
Stafford	1,531	80	5%
Staunton	239	39	16%
Suffolk	1,058	172	16%
Surry	64	10	16%
Sussex	115	21	18%
Tazewell	467	97	21%
Virginia Beach	6,234	524	8%
Warren	437	62	14%
Washington	547	78	14%
Waynesboro	271	72	27%
Westmoreland	204	42	21%
Williamsburg	129	17	13%
Winchester	348	146	42%
Wise	504	106	21%
Wythe	325	53	16%
York	590	26	4%

Prenatal Care

2002 WOMEN RECEIVING
EARLY PRENATAL CARE

Early and ongoing prenatal care can increase the likelihood of the birth of a healthy child with fewer physical obstacles to readiness for school.⁷ Women who have not had prenatal care are more likely to have low birth weight babies, stillborn babies, and babies that die before they reach their first birthday. Prenatal care presents the ability to identify and treat the maternal health conditions that threaten the birth of a healthy child. It also provides the opportunity for doctors and nurses to address issues such as smoking or substance abuse and to assure that the pregnant woman has a place to live, is safe, and is eating appropriately.⁸ Women who have had prenatal care are also more likely to seek ongoing well baby care.

The table for this indicator shows the number of births for women in 2002, the number of women who received prenatal care in the first thirteen weeks of their pregnancy, and the percent of women who received care. The localities are the mother's reported place of residence. The number of women seeking prenatal care in Virginia rose from about 82% in 1995 to about 85% in 2001. The Virginia rate for 2002 is the same as 2001 (85%).

⁷ M.D. Kogan, J.A. Martin, G.R. Alexander, M. Kotelchuck, S.J. Ventura, & F.D. Frigoletto (1998). The changing pattern of prenatal care utilization in the United States, 1981-1995, using different prenatal care indices, In *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 279(20), 1623-1628.

⁸ G. Alexander & C. Korenbrot (1995). The role of prenatal care in preventing low birth weight. In *The Future of Children: Low Birth Weight*, 5(1). Los Altos, CA: The David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

Prenatal Care: 2002 WOMEN RECEIVING EARLY PRENATAL CARE

LOCALITY	2002 NUMBER OF BIRTHS	NUMBER RECEIVING CARE IN FIRST 13 WEEKS	PERCENT RECEIVING CARE
Virginia	99,235	84,085	85%
Accomack	477	309	65%
Albemarle	973	806	83%
Alexandria	2,208	1,522	69%
Alleghany	156	132	85%
Amelia	151	136	90%
Amherst	325	306	94%
Appomattox	145	139	96%
Arlington	2,686	1,927	72%
Augusta	715	582	81%
Bath	35	27	77%
Bedford City	53	42	79%
Bedford County	573	542	95%
Bland	55	48	87%
Botetourt	297	288	97%
Bristol	190	157	83%
Brunswick	179	144	80%
Buchanan	234	201	86%
Buckingham	160	127	79%
Buena Vista	56	48	86%
Campbell	616	591	96%
Caroline	283	249	88%
Carroll	296	242	82%
Charles City	78	70	90%
Charlotte	145	118	81%
Charlottesville	491	399	81%
Chesapeake	2,744	2,429	89%
Chesterfield	3,337	3,057	92%
Clarke	115	102	89%
Colonial Heights	204	180	88%
Covington	60	51	85%
Craig	49	48	98%
Culpeper	501	418	83%
Cumberland	101	90	89%
Danville	588	393	67%
Dickenson	166	149	90%
Dinwiddie	256	233	91%
Emporia	96	56	58%
Essex	120	101	84%
Fairfax City	270	231	86%
Fairfax County	14,804	12,554	85%
Falls Church	92	80	87%
Fauquier	729	667	91%
Floyd	158	146	92%
Fluvanna	301	248	82%
Franklin City	137	116	85%
Franklin County	518	466	90%
Frederick	822	769	94%
Fredericksburg	356	314	88%
Galax	111	75	68%
Giles	212	176	83%
Gloucester	413	384	93%
Goochland	190	179	94%
Grayson	170	140	82%
Greene	245	201	82%
Greensville	108	76	70%
Halifax	421	298	71%
Hampton	1,867	1,514	81%
Hanover	1,069	997	93%
Harrisonburg	491	360	73%
Henrico	3,703	3,357	91%
Henry	611	474	78%
Highland	16	15	94%
Hopewell	334	268	80%
Isle of Wight	358	320	89%
James City	466	442	95%
King and Queen	63	58	92%
King George	254	225	89%

LOCALITY	2002 NUMBER OF BIRTHS	NUMBER RECEIVING CARE IN FIRST 13 WEEKS	PERCENT RECEIVING CARE
King William	194	182	94%
Lancaster	108	78	72%
Lee	243	180	74%
Lexington	33	29	88%
Loudoun	4,192	3,855	92%
Louisa	333	279	84%
Lunenburg	109	94	86%
Lynchburg	887	831	94%
Madison	157	125	80%
Manassas	683	524	77%
Manassas Park	241	177	73%
Martinsville	180	118	66%
Mathews	91	85	93%
Mecklenburg	344	277	81%
Middlesex	76	64	84%
Montgomery	779	690	89%
Nelson	147	119	81%
New Kent	159	144	91%
Newport News	3,170	2,646	83%
Norfolk	4,119	3,250	79%
Northampton	135	85	63%
Northumberland	108	81	75%
Norton	23	18	78%
Nottoway	196	170	87%
Orange	324	270	83%
Page	284	240	85%
Patrick	169	137	81%
Petersburg	530	395	75%
Pittsylvania	658	545	83%
Poquoson	93	88	95%
Portsmouth	1,539	1,176	76%
Powhatan	279	269	96%
Prince Edward	195	170	87%
Prince George	348	311	89%
Prince William	5,655	4,541	80%
Pulaski	324	280	86%
Radford	127	109	86%
Rappahannock	77	65	84%
Richmond City	3,081	2,425	79%
Richmond County	92	74	80%
Roanoke City	1,114	1,095	98%
Roanoke County	1,020	1,002	98%
Rockbridge	219	190	87%
Rockingham	913	766	84%
Russell	305	259	85%
Salem	219	216	99%
Scott	215	179	83%
Shenandoah	412	348	84%
Smyth	320	284	89%
Southampton	133	115	86%
Spotsylvania	1,617	1,518	94%
Stafford	1,531	1,382	90%
Staunton	239	170	71%
Suffolk	1,058	906	86%
Surry	64	55	86%
Sussex	115	90	78%
Tazewell	467	390	84%
Virginia Beach	6,234	5,429	87%
Warren	437	374	86%
Washington	547	480	88%
Waynesboro	271	203	75%
Westmoreland	204	165	81%
Williamsburg	129	119	92%
Winchester	348	279	80%
Wise	504	434	86%
Wythe	325	285	88%
York	590	547	93%

Low Birth Weights

2002 NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE
OF LOW BIRTH WEIGHT BABIES
BORN IN EACH LOCALITY

A baby is classified as low birth weight if he or she is born weighing less than 2,500 grams (about 5.5 pounds). Infants born at low birth weight are at increased risk of long-term disability and impaired development.⁹ Infants born under 2,500 grams are more likely than heavier infants to experience delayed motor and social development.¹⁰ Children aged 4 to 17 who were born at low birth weight were more likely to be enrolled in special education classes, to repeat a grade, or to fail school than children who were born at a normal birth weight.¹¹

Notable racial and ethnic population differences exist in the rate of low birth weight babies, with African American babies being at significantly higher risk than either white or Latino babies. While not explaining the consistent differences in low birth weight babies among different populations, the overall number of low birth weight babies has increased over the last few years because more premature and low birth weight babies are now surviving. Medical advances in their care and an increase in the number of twins and multiple births (some due to the increased use of assisted reproduction techniques) have been factors in the increases. Other contributing factors are maternal cigarette smoking, alcohol and other drug use, and the lack of prenatal care.

Data on the percentage of low birth weight babies born in each locality are reported by place of mother's residence, not place of birth. Data are for 2002 and include the number of births in each locality, the number of low weight births in each locality, and the percentage of births that are low weight. The overall percent of low weight births for Virginia in 2002 was 8%.

⁹M. Hack, N.K. Klein, & H.G. Taylor (1995). Long-term developmental outcomes of low birth weight infants. In *The Future of Children: Low Birth Weight*,5(1), 19-34. Los Altos, CA: The David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

¹⁰M.L. Hediger, M.D. Overpeck, W.J. Ruan, and J.F. Troendle (2002). Birthweight and gestational age effects on motor and social development. *Pediatric and Prenatal Epidemiology*,16, 33-46.

¹¹National Education Goals Panel (1997). Special early childhood report. Washington, D.C.: National Education Goals Panel.

2002 Number and Percentage of Low Birth Weight Babies

LOCALITY	2002 TOTAL BIRTHS	NUMBER OF LOW BIRTH WEIGHT BIRTHS	PERCENT OF LOW BIRTH WEIGHT BIRTHS
Virginia	99,235	7,904	8%
Accomack	477	51	11%
Albemarle	973	53	5%
Alexandria	2,208	134	6%
Alleghany	156	10	6%
Amelia	151	11	7%
Amherst	325	28	9%
Appomattox	145	12	8%
Arlington	2,686	175	7%
Augusta	715	56	8%
Bath	35	1	3%
Bedford City	53	0	0%
Bedford County	573	46	8%
Bland	55	4	7%
Botetourt	297	27	9%
Bristol	190	20	11%
Brunswick	179	22	12%
Buchanan	234	25	11%
Buckingham	160	14	9%
Buena Vista	56	1	2%
Campbell	616	38	6%
Caroline	283	31	11%
Carroll	296	26	9%
Charles City	78	7	9%
Charlotte	145	15	10%
Charlottesville	491	35	7%
Chesapeake	2,744	224	8%
Chesterfield	3,337	256	8%
Clarke	115	14	12%
Colonial Heights	204	11	5%
Covington	60	5	8%
Craig	49	2	4%
Culpeper	501	44	9%
Cumberland	101	10	10%
Danville	588	66	11%
Dickenson	166	8	5%
Dinwiddie	256	17	7%
Emporia	96	10	10%
Essex	120	15	13%
Fairfax City	270	19	7%
Fairfax County	14,804	952	6%
Falls Church	92	6	7%
Fauquier	729	54	7%
Floyd	158	14	9%
Fluvanna	301	17	6%
Franklin City	137	18	13%
Franklin County	518	49	9%
Frederick	822	58	7%
Fredericksburg	356	29	8%
Galax	111	8	7%
Giles	212	15	7%
Gloucester	413	26	6%
Goochland	190	12	6%
Grayson	170	11	6%
Greene	245	14	6%
Greensville	108	19	18%
Halifax	421	39	9%
Hampton	1,867	179	10%
Hanover	1,069	84	8%
Harrisonburg	491	42	9%
Henrico	3,703	337	9%
Henry	611	73	12%
Highland	16	1	6%
Hopewell	334	24	7%
Isle Of Wight	358	29	8%
James City Co.	466	27	6%
King And Queen	63	8	13%
King George	254	20	8%

LOCALITY	2002 TOTAL BIRTHS	NUMBER OF LOW BIRTH WEIGHT BIRTHS	PERCENT OF LOW BIRTH WEIGHT BIRTHS
King William	194	17	9%
Lancaster	108	8	7%
Lee	243	24	10%
Lexington	33	3	9%
Loudoun	4,192	272	6%
Louisa	333	23	7%
Lunenburg	109	14	13%
Lynchburg	887	75	8%
Madison	157	5	3%
Manassas	683	53	8%
Manassas Park	241	12	5%
Martinsville	180	17	9%
Mathews	91	5	5%
Mecklenburg	344	35	10%
Middlesex	76	13	17%
Montgomery	779	46	6%
Nelson	147	9	6%
New Kent	159	15	9%
Newport News	3,170	359	11%
Norfolk	4,119	442	11%
Northampton	135	15	11%
Northumberland	108	7	6%
Norton	23	2	9%
Nottoway	196	22	11%
Orange	324	23	7%
Page	284	30	11%
Patrick	169	5	3%
Petersburg	530	58	11%
Pittsylvania	658	39	6%
Poquoson	93	2	2%
Portsmouth	1,539	155	10%
Powhatan	279	11	4%
Prince Edward	195	22	11%
Prince George	348	16	5%
Prince William	5,655	402	7%
Pulaski	324	28	9%
Radford	127	1	1%
Rappahannock	77	4	5%
Richmond City	3,081	389	13%
Richmond County	92	5	5%
Roanoke City	1,114	93	8%
Roanoke County	1,020	74	7%
Rockbridge	219	21	10%
Rockingham	913	61	7%
Russell	305	30	10%
Salem	219	18	8%
Scott	215	18	8%
Shenandoah	412	22	5%
Smyth	320	27	8%
Southampton	133	10	8%
Spotsylvania	1,617	117	7%
Stafford	1,531	120	8%
Staunton	239	20	8%
Suffolk	1,058	96	9%
Surry	64	9	14%
Sussex	115	11	10%
Tazewell	467	50	11%
Virginia Beach	6,234	450	7%
Warren	437	33	8%
Washington	547	40	7%
Waynesboro	271	20	7%
Westmoreland	204	16	8%
Williamsburg	129	15	12%
Winchester	348	31	9%
Wise	504	43	9%
Wythe	325	22	7%
York	590	46	8%

Children Living in Poverty

2000 PERCENT OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6 LIVING IN POVERTY

Poverty is a strong predictor of delayed cognitive development due to the many risk factors associated with poor homes, including lack of quality health and child care.¹² “Poverty before age 5 is associated with fewer total years of schooling, school failure, and dropout. Children in low-income families have more health and nutrition problems than non-poor counterparts, two factors leading to a lack of school readiness.”¹³ “Children from poor families score lower on standardized tests for verbal ability, and have lower cognitive skills such as reading, number skills, problem solving, creativity, and memory.”¹⁴ All syntheses of research on variables that affect outcomes for young children conclude that poverty is the one most consistently associated with “compromised child development.”¹⁵

Young children are the largest group living in poverty in the United States. While most children who grow up in poverty will be productive adults, a study conducted by Greg Duncan at the University of Michigan and reported in the *Washington Post* in 1993 found that persistent poverty in the first five years of a child’s life could reduce IQ 9.1 points below non-poor peers. Other problems associated with poverty include increased depression and behavior problems, and a greater likelihood of later becoming teen parents, high school dropouts, or prison inmates. Poor children have less access to high quality services and supports, including good schools.

The following data represent the total population of children under the age of 6 in each locality according to the 2000 Census, the number and percent of those children who are living below 100% of the federal poverty threshold, and the number and percent of those children living in deep poverty (below 50% of the federal poverty threshold). In 1999, the 100% poverty threshold for a family with two adults and two children was \$16,895 per year. In 1999, the deep poverty threshold (50% of the federal poverty threshold) for a family with two adults and two children was \$8,448 per year.

¹² J. Shonkoff & D. Phillips, (eds.), (2000). From *Neurons to Neighborhoods*. Washington, D.C.: The National Academy Press.

¹³ J. Brooks-Gunn, P.R. Brito, & C. Brady, (1999). Struggling to make ends meet: Poverty and child development. In *M.E. Lamb (ed.), Parenting and child development in “nontraditional” families*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

¹⁴ D.J. Stipek & R.H. Ryan, (1997). Economically disadvantaged preschoolers: Ready to learn but further to go. *Developmental Psychology*, 33(4), 711-723.

¹⁵ J. Shonkoff & D. Phillips, (eds.), (2000). From *Neurons to Neighborhoods*. Washington, D.C.: The National Academy Press.

Children Living in Poverty:

2002 PERCENT OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6 LIVING IN POVERTY

LOCALITY	2000 POP. UNDER AGE 6	BELOW 100% POVERTY UNDER AGE 6		DEEP POVERTY (BELOW 50% OF POVERTY) UNDER AGE 6		LOCALITY	2000 POP. UNDER AGE 6	BELOW 100% POVERTY UNDER AGE 6		DEEP POVERTY (BELOW 50% OF POVERTY) UNDER AGE 6	
		NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT			NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Virginia	557,736	71,726	13%	33,465	6%	King George	1,510	87	6%	36	2%
Accomack	2,792	715	26%	294	11%	King William	1,121	55	5%	34	3%
Albemarle	6,000	438	7%	241	4%	Lancaster	577	102	18%	62	11%
Alexandria	9,262	1,246	13%	599	6%	Lee	1,648	569	35%	267	16%
Alleghany	905	95	10%	60	7%	Lexington	247	68	28%	30	12%
Amelia	870	42	5%	5	1%	Loudoun	19,682	522	3%	213	1%
Amherst	2,234	338	15%	99	4%	Louisa	1,904	261	14%	88	5%
Appomattox	1,047	139	13%	45	4%	Lunenburg	784	240	31%	104	13%
Arlington	12,144	1,020	8%	444	4%	Lynchburg	4,660	1,247	27%	523	11%
Augusta	4,521	340	8%	180	4%	Madison	864	129	15%	38	4%
Bath	279	20	7%	10	4%	Manassas	3,636	304	8%	145	4%
Bedford City	424	156	37%	127	30%	Manassas Park	1,235	74	6%	20	2%
Bedford County	4,290	320	7%	128	3%	Martinsville	1,051	301	29%	128	12%
Bland	379	68	18%	9	2%	Mathews	504	18	4%	0	N/C
Botetourt	2,107	77	4%	54	3%	Mecklenburg	2,093	426	20%	252	12%
Bristol	1,114	284	25%	146	13%	Middlesex	452	110	24%	62	14%
Brunswick	1,124	171	15%	81	7%	Montgomery	4,758	813	17%	302	6%
Buchanan	1,583	427	27%	191	12%	Nelson	927	128	14%	50	5%
Buckingham	926	258	28%	38	4%	New Kent	927	52	6%	9	1%
Buena Vista	461	76	16%	33	7%	Newport News	17,107	3,909	23%	1,931	11%
Campbell	3,678	567	15%	192	5%	Norfolk	19,719	5,501	28%	2,911	15%
Caroline	1,690	223	13%	43	3%	Northampton	867	314	36%	106	12%
Carroll	1,998	369	18%	185	9%	Northumberland	658	139	21%	69	10%
Charles City	472	49	10%	15	3%	Norton	255	115	45%	66	26%
Charlotte	863	167	19%	86	10%	Nottoway	1,057	234	22%	79	7%
Charlottesville	2,368	525	22%	237	10%	Orange	1,856	218	12%	80	4%
Chesapeake	17,265	1,934	11%	1,000	6%	Page	1,599	244	15%	115	7%
Chesterfield	21,322	1,341	6%	595	3%	Patrick	1,359	235	17%	102	8%
Clarke	835	69	8%	41	5%	Petersburg	2,610	789	30%	415	16%
Clifton Forge	282	99	35%	52	18%	Pittsylvania	4,194	673	16%	247	6%
Colonial Heights	1,113	39	4%	22	2%	Poquoson	738	56	8%	21	3%
Covington	471	102	22%	40	8%	Portsmouth	8,555	2,368	28%	1,187	14%
Craig	356	38	11%	9	3%	Powhatan	1,589	92	6%	57	4%
Culpeper	2,660	276	10%	47	2%	Prince Edward	1,178	274	23%	92	8%
Cumberland	689	124	18%	30	4%	Prince George	2,402	301	13%	114	5%
Danville	3,502	1,440	41%	775	22%	Prince William	28,789	1,766	6%	789	3%
Dickenson	1,038	281	27%	115	11%	Pulaski	2,339	610	26%	237	10%
Dinwiddie	1,650	211	13%	64	4%	Radford	661	95	14%	71	11%
Emporia	436	84	19%	71	16%	Rappahannock	420	52	12%	0	N/C
Essex	635	79	12%	24	4%	Richmond City	14,788	4,958	34%	2,720	18%
Fairfax City	1,538	41	3%	22	1%	Richmond County	430	95	22%	65	15%
Fairfax County	81,675	4,371	5%	1,943	2%	Roanoke City	7,453	2,079	28%	1,047	14%
Falls Church	690	47	7%	23	3%	Roanoke County	5,587	354	6%	204	4%
Fauquier	4,256	298	7%	99	2%	Rockbridge	1,351	169	13%	62	5%
Floyd	950	122	13%	39	4%	Rockingham	5,163	597	12%	221	4%
Fluvanna	1,567	108	7%	51	3%	Russell	1,955	410	21%	235	12%
Franklin City	538	176	33%	100	19%	Salem	1,479	78	5%	25	2%
Franklin County	3,147	408	13%	159	5%	Scott	1,487	402	27%	217	15%
Frederick	4,657	367	8%	172	4%	Shenandoah	2,379	252	11%	95	4%
Fredericksburg	1,332	257	19%	75	6%	Smyth	2,158	417	19%	153	7%
Galax	525	122	23%	37	7%	Southampton	1,070	224	21%	134	13%
Giles	1,138	143	13%	36	3%	Spotsylvania	8,430	465	6%	172	2%
Gloucester	2,483	258	10%	113	5%	Stafford	8,810	377	4%	189	2%
Goochland	1,044	80	8%	51	5%	Staunton	1,493	230	15%	73	5%
Grayson	1,061	155	15%	62	6%	Suffolk	5,586	944	17%	472	8%
Greene	1,372	76	6%	26	2%	Surry	477	75	16%	32	7%
Greensville	528	83	16%	19	4%	Sussex	713	182	26%	82	12%
Halifax	2,714	584	22%	334	12%	Tazewell	2,879	674	23%	264	9%
Hampton	11,272	1,854	16%	866	8%	Virginia Beach	37,054	3,452	9%	1,507	4%
Hanover	6,872	268	4%	111	2%	Warren	2,576	215	8%	80	3%
Harrisonburg	2,281	572	25%	275	12%	Washington	3,147	391	12%	138	4%
Henrico	21,575	2,146	10%	1,055	5%	Waynesboro	1,546	351	23%	139	9%
Henry	3,911	805	21%	389	10%	Westmoreland	1,046	262	25%	89	9%
Highland	112	25	22%	0	N/C	Williamsburg	370	145	39%	48	13%
Hopewell	2,020	596	30%	456	23%	Winchester	1,722	358	21%	175	10%
Isle of Wight	2,190	281	13%	163	7%	Wise	2,802	814	29%	432	15%
James City	3,307	242	7%	54	2%	Wythe	1,823	236	13%	96	5%
King and Queen	451	25	6%	11	2%	York	4,439	272	6%	79	2%

Child Abuse/Neglect

2001/2002 DUPLICATED COUNTS OF FOUNDED AND UNFOUNDED CASES AND ASSESSMENTS

Children who have been physically abused are more likely to suffer from attention deficit disorders, depression, conduct problems, and limits in cognitive development and functioning.¹⁶ “Abuse and neglect are linked with language deficits, reduced cognitive functioning, and attention deficit disorders. In addition, neglected and abused children tend to have lower grades, lower standardized test scores, and lower rates of grade promotion.”¹⁷ “Maltreatment can have a negative impact on children’s emotional stability and self-regulation, problem solving skills, and the ability to cope with or adapt to new or stressful situations – all of which are important to school readiness.”¹⁸

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) began piloting a Differential Response System (DRS) in five localities in 2000, began implementing it in other parts of the Commonwealth in May of 2002, and now VDSS reports that all localities have implemented the DRS as of August 13, 2003.* Valid complaints of child abuse/neglect now receive one of two responses: investigation or assessment. VDSS reports that an

investigation usually will be conducted when there are immediate concerns for the child’s safety and/or there are potential criminal charges against an alleged perpetrator. When there are no immediate safety concerns but the child’s family is in need of services to better care for their children, a safety/family assessment will be conducted. 2001/2002 data are reported for founded and unfounded reports of child abuse by locality (investigated cases) and for the number of child safety/family assessments conducted in each locality.

The state average for proportion of reports that resulted in assessments was 14%. The state average for the proportion of reports founded was 19% and for unfounded was 67%.

In the same year (2001/2002), 28 children in Virginia died as a result of child abuse/neglect.

* Note: Although most local agencies had implemented the Differential Response System by May 2003 some began later. This is the reason why there are no assessments reported for Chesterfield County and Richmond City.

¹⁶ J.Kaufman (1991), Depressive disorders in maltreated children. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 30(2), 257-265.

R. Famularo, R. Kinscherff, & T. Fenton (1992). Psychiatric diagnoses of maltreated children: Preliminary findings. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 31(5), 863-867.

¹⁷ M. Augustinos (1987). Developmental effects of child abuse: A number of recent findings. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 11, 15-27.

¹⁸ R. Chalk, A. Gibbons, & H. Scarupa (2002). The multiple dimensions of child abuse and neglect: New insights into an old problem. *Child Trends Research Brief*. Washington, D.C.: Child Trends.

Child Abuse/Neglect:

2001-02 DUPLICATED COUNTS OF FOUNDED CASES AND ASSESSMENTS

LOCALITY	UNFOUNDED	ASSESSED	NUMBER FOUNDED	FOUNDED RATE/1,000
Virginia	30,372	6,317	8,388	4.7
Accomack	134	0	43	4.6
Albemarle	34	458	21	1.0
Alexandria	692	139	174	7.6
Alleghany	58	14	10	2.7
Amelia	34	7	22	7.7
Amherst	69	20	34	4.6
Appomattox	48	6	13	4.0
Arlington	556	115	170	5.4
Augusta	274	33	85	5.5
Bath	14	0	14	13.8
Bedford City	64	13	19	13.7
Bedford County	354	58	112	7.8
Bland	42	13	11	8.2
Botetourt	22	0	16	2.3
Bristol	120	19	49	14.1
Brunswick	62	3	6	1.6
Buchanan	300	70	49	9.4
Buckingham	68	1	7	2.1
Buena	26	8	0	0.0
Campbell	401	32	65	5.3
Caroline	99	12	25	4.6
Carroll	52	4	24	4.1
Charles	7	1	4	2.7
Charlotte	75	8	16	5.4
Charlottesville	176	58	61	8.8
Chesapeake	1,012	133	234	4.0
Chesterfield	919	0	338	4.5
Clarke	21	1	16	5.3
Colonial	60	0	49	13.0
Covington	38	7	9	6.5
Craig	23	0	13	11.0
Culpeper	195	31	19	2.1
Cumberland	63	11	27	12.8
Danville	288	62	77	7.0
Dickenson	179	27	19	5.7
Dinwiddie	89	4	15	2.6
Emporia	6	0	1	0.7
Essex	9	0	3	1.3
Fairfax City	42	2	18	4.0
Fairfax County	2,001	470	446	1.8
Falls Church	7	1	0	0.0
Fauquier	235	54	28	1.8
Floyd	47	13	19	6.2
Fluvanna	51	1	16	3.2
Franklin City	2	0	3	1.5
Franklin County	126	23	28	2.6
Frederick	274	51	66	4.1
Fredericksburg	96	9	25	6.3
Galax	22	3	16	10.2
Giles	193	37	65	17.0
Gloucester	90	14	20	2.2
Goochland	27	8	8	2.2
Grayson	57	6	38	11.2
Greene	54	0	7	1.6
Greensville	22	8	7	3.5
Halifax	173	18	64	7.5
Hampton	487	37	177	5.0
Hanover	281	0	51	2.1
Harrisonburg	317	88	115	18.6
Henrico	622	127	243	3.7
Henry	162	14	40	3.2
Highland	1	0	0	0.0
Hopewell	207	36	63	10.4
Isle	150	21	24	3.2
James	110	27	101	8.9
King and Queen	0	0	0	0.0
King George	28	7	8	1.7

LOCALITY	UNFOUNDED	ASSESSED	NUMBER FOUNDED	FOUNDED RATE/1,000
King William	42	12	9	2.6
Lancaster	14	5	1	0.5
Lee	122	41	27	5.2
Lexington	14	2	3	4.0
Loudoun	97	405	30	0.5
Louisa	79	3	16	2.5
Lunenburg	13	1	0	0.0
Lynchburg	570	101	158	10.9
Madison	31	5	20	6.9
Manassas	181	7	49	4.3
Manassas Park	40	17	13	3.8
Martinsville	66	10	6	1.7
Mathews	21	7	10	5.6
Mecklenburg	137	0	20	2.9
Middlesex	16	2	1	0.5
Montgomery	118	247	101	7.2
Nelson	36	3	9	2.9
New	26	0	8	2.3
Newport	993	97	209	4.1
Norfolk	1,659	57	499	8.5
Northampton	18	0	7	2.4
Northumberland	35	6	15	6.6
Norton	79	13	11	12.4
Nottoway	20	3	9	2.5
Orange	92	17	45	7.3
Page	68	27	42	8.0
Patrick	100	0	41	10.1
Petersburg	208	48	80	9.6
Pittsylvania	204	36	101	7.3
Poquoson	10	19	3	1.0
Portsmouth	291	986	142	5.5
Powhatan	39	0	11	1.9
Prince Edward	39	26	34	8.6
Prince George	107	12	30	3.6
Prince William	1,604	163	227	2.4
Pulaski	436	68	108	15.1
Radford	64	8	12	6.1
Rappahannock	3	0	0	0.0
Richmond City	2,548	0	430	9.7
Richmond County	24	5	8	5.1
Roanoke City	829	206	207	9.4
Roanoke County	234	42	69	3.6
Rockbridge	94	14	13	2.9
Rockingham	485	88	172	10.4
Russell	133	33	46	7.5
Salem	31	6	7	1.4
Scott	115	12	29	6.2
Shenandoah	158	36	19	2.4
Smyth	386	74	40	5.8
Southampton	92	3	16	4.2
Spotsylvania	377	60	62	2.1
Stafford	226	66	92	2.9
Staunton	186	24	55	11.6
Suffolk	200	81	24	1.3
Surry	7	2	4	2.3
Sussex	10	5	19	7.9
Tazewell	400	66	70	7.8
Virginia	1,910	203	944	8.0
Warren	139	8	72	8.6
Washington	309	71	63	6.1
Waynesboro	233	27	24	4.9
Westmoreland	29	5	4	1.1
Williamsburg	45	1	7	6.8
Winchester	27	4	15	2.9
Wise	602	65	113	12.7
Wythe	243	51	45	7.6
York	41	162	46	2.8

Elevated Lead Levels

2002 PREVALENCE OF ELEVATED BLOOD
LEAD LEVELS AND PROPORTION
TESTED AMONG CHILDREN UNDER 6

Lead poisoning is one of the most serious threats to the health of children in the United States, and it is preventable. A study released in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in April 2003 found that children with a blood level of less than 10 micrograms per deciliter (10µg/dL) can suffer intellectual impairment through irreversible brain damage. This is a level of concentration even lower than that now being used by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to identify children needing immediate treatment, including the removal of the toxic threats. Children with lead poisoning can also experience impaired physical development, including damage to the kidneys, bone marrow, and other body systems.

While there have been great strides over the past decades in reducing lead poisoning in children, those in low-income families are still at very high risk because they often live in older housing where it is easy to chew on lead-based paint chips or on dusty lead-contaminated window sills. Low-income children are also more likely to be exposed to lead through house dust, drinking water, and contaminated soil in their neighborhoods. Given that the incidence of lead poisoning is greatest among low-income children, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends screening all children in publicly funded health care programs. Preliminary results suggest that an estimated 8% of those children have elevated blood lead levels.¹⁹

The table shows the number of children in Virginia under 6 years of age from the Virginia Center for Health Statistics, the number tested for lead in their blood, and the number of children with elevated blood lead levels. An elevated blood lead level for this age group is 10 µg/dL or greater. Results are based on one test per child, and include single capillary tests. A child may have been counted in a prior year, due to a previous or continuing exposure. Elevated levels are required to be reported under the *State Regulations for Disease Reporting and Control*. Other data were voluntarily submitted by laboratories until July 1, 2001, when new regulations became effective, requiring laboratories to report electronically to the Virginia Department of Health all blood lead tests on children under 72 months of age. Data from 5 sites receiving federal funds for lead poisoning prevention are included.

¹⁹ *Lead poisoning: Federal health care programs are not effectively reaching at-risk children* (1999). Washington, D.C.: General Accounting Office.

Elevated Lead Levels: 2002 PREVALENCE OF ELEVATED BLOOD LEAD LEVELS AND PROPORTION TESTED UNDER AGE 6

LOCALITY	POPULATION < 6 YEARS (2000)	2002		TESTING RATE PER 1,000	
		NUMBER ELEVATED	PERCENT ELEVATED		
VIRGINIA	578,369	1,200	2	51,359	89
Accomack	2,899	36	5	738	255
Albemarle	6,142	6	5	130	21
Alexandria	11,307	5	1	933	83
Alleghany	1,096	4	18	22	20
Amelia	900	2	3	63	70
Amherst	2,128	11	2	513	241
Appomattox	963	6	2	282	293
Arlington	13,452	8	1	1,369	102
Augusta	4,355	3	1	261	60
Bath	253	0	0	13	51
Bedford City	485	4	2	190	392
Bedford County	3,950	2	0	413	105
Bland	405	0	0	21	52
Botetourt	2,017	0	0	113	56
Bristol	1,090	5	6	83	76
Brunswick	1,124	3	3	86	77
Buchanan	1,416	3	3	106	75
Buckingham	824	3	5	65	79
Buena Vista	491	0	0	8	16
Campbell	3,733	11	2	712	191
Caroline	1,635	4	4	94	57
Carroll	1,716	0	0	87	51
Charles City	459	0	0	29	63
Charlotte	870	4	4	103	118
Charlottesville	2,679	4	3	121	45
Chesapeake	17,424	12	1	923	53
Chesterfield	21,452	15	1	1,050	49
Clarke	786	0	0	2	3
Clifton Forge	included in Alleghany				
Colonial Heights	1,074	5	5	106	99
Covington	473	3	7	46	97
Craig	328	0	0	16	49
Culpeper	2,748	4	2	230	84
Cumberland	601	1	4	27	45
Danville	3,546	15	7	223	63
Dickenson	927	1	2	59	64
Dinwiddie	1,608	3	2	172	107
Emporia	513	5	2	218	425
Essex	669	3	5	62	93
Fairfax City	1,582	1	0	220	139
Fairfax County	86,181	27	1	3,722	43
Falls Church	721	1	1	75	104
Fauquier	4,297	0	0	75	17
Floyd	897	2	4	45	50
Fluvanna	1,518	0	0	19	13
Franklin City	583	4	4	90	154
Franklin County	3,201	1	2	53	17
Frederick	4,814	0	0	4	1
Fredericksburg	1,734	1	1	69	40
Galax	574	0	0	69	120
Giles	1,318	0	0	38	29
Gloucester	2,420	0	0	42	17
Goochland	1,070	2	4	53	50
Grayson	1,004	1	5	20	20
Greene	1,430	0	0	19	13
Greensville	556	1	9	11	20
Halifax	2,668	16	3	585	219
Hampton	11,515	6	1	1,033	90
Hanover	6,860	2	1	215	31
Harrisonburg	2,299	4	1	329	143
Henrico	22,230	35	3	1,348	61
Henry	3,769	13	6	228	60
Highland	93	0	0	12	129
Hopewell	2,052	15	2	716	349
Isle of Wight	2,171	2	3	72	33
James City	3,122	6	3	183	59
King and Queen	392	0	0	16	41
King George	1,480	0	0	53	36

LOCALITY	POPULATION < 6 YEARS (2000)	2002		TESTING RATE PER 1,000	
		NUMBER ELEVATED	PERCENT ELEVATED		
King William	1,112	0	0	34	31
Lancaster	606	2	2	104	172
Lee	1,533	0	0	205	134
Lexington	264	0	0	8	30
Loudoun	22,228	8	2	384	17
Louisa	1,916	1	2	45	23
Lunenburg	746	2	2	82	110
Lynchburg City	4,855	83	5	1,781	367
Madison	738	1	4	24	33
Manassas	4,263	1	1	122	29
Manassas Park	1,221	0	0	72	59
Martinsville	1,145	9	5	175	153
Mathews	492	1	7	14	28
Mecklenburg	2,069	3	1	215	104
Middlesex	484	1	4	23	48
Montgomery	4,688	1	1	192	41
Nelson	944	3	5	60	64
New Kent	957	1	3	38	40
Newport News	18,257	18	2	998	55
Norfolk	21,534	61	2	3,125	145
Northampton	845	18	6	285	337
Northumberland	650	5	5	93	143
Norton	307	0	0	15	49
Nottoway	1,150	5	6	90	78
Orange	1,897	3	5	60	32
Page	1,591	0	0	151	95
Patrick	1,222	3	5	55	45
Petersburg	2,742	82	8	1,001	365
Pittsylvania	4,216	5	2	213	51
Poquoson	650	1	3	30	46
Portsmouth	8,955	27	2	1,138	127
Powhatan	1,629	6	5	126	77
Prince Edward	1,203	2	2	89	74
Prince George	2,470	3	1	322	130
Prince William	31,828	5	1	565	18
Pulaski	2,303	1	2	60	26
Radford	752	0	0	41	55
Rappahannock	433	0	0	24	55
Richmond City	16,280	206	6	3,196	196
Richmond County	441	1	2	48	109
Roanoke City	7,933	58	5	1,161	146
Roanoke County	5,147	2	1	199	39
Rockbridge	1,265	1	4	23	18
Rockingham	4,965	14	2	902	182
Russell	1,826	3	3	107	59
Salem	1,407	1	1	124	88
Scott	1,348	3	5	59	44
Shenandoah	2,373	0	0	70	29
Smyth	2,046	2	2	115	56
Southampton	1,056	2	4	55	52
Spotsylvania	8,778	0	0	175	20
Stafford	9,221	3	2	163	18
Staunton	1,527	9	3	272	178
Suffolk	5,989	22	6	399	67
Surry	483	1	1	70	145
Sussex	751	4	2	221	294
Tazewell	2,573	6	2	277	108
Virginia Beach	37,782	3	0	1,027	27
Warren	2,588	1	25	4	2
Washington	3,076	3	3	89	29
Waynesboro	1,614	4	1	282	175
Westmoreland	1,008	3	4	77	76
Williamsburg	336	0	0	2	6
Winchester	1,766	0	0	1	1
Wise	2,688	0	0	111	41
Wythe	1,771	5	3	169	95
York	4,347	2	2	84	19
Unknown		148		10,715	



Indicators: Early Childhood Support Services

“Children’s chances of being ready for school and succeeding at school are significantly damaged when they face multiple risk factors.”²⁰ To address the special needs of young children, Virginia has several public programs and services to assist children birth to five who have been identified as being at-risk, primarily those from low-income families or with identified special needs. “Early interventions can improve a child’s social competence and cognitive abilities before entering school; often, long-term educational benefits can be reaped from effective early intervention programs.”²¹

“We know without a doubt, that in our modern economy, educational achievement is probably the single greatest predictor of prosperity, a more stable family life, and good citizenship.”

**- BELLE S. WHEELAN, Ph.D.,
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION**

²⁰ A.J. Sameroff & S. McDonough (1984). The role of motor activity in human cognitive and social development. In E. Pollitt and A. Amande (eds.), *Energy intake and activity*. NY: Alan R. Liss.

²¹ L.A. Karoly, P. Greenwood, S.S. Everingham, J. Houbé, R. Kilburn, C.P. Rydell, M. Sanders, & J. Chiesa (1998). *Investing in children: What we know and don’t know about the costs and benefits of early childhood interventions*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND.

Child Health Insurance

2003 CHILDREN ELIGIBLE AND ENROLLED IN MEDICAID AND FAMIS

Children with health insurance and access to health care are more likely to have early and preventive treatment for illnesses and conditions that can otherwise cause long-lasting damage. Healthy children have greater ability to focus and engage in the learning process with fewer distractions of illness, pain, or fatigue. Poor health, physical problems, and developmental challenges impact regular attendance and threaten a child's ability to adapt to school.²²

While health insurance alone does not guarantee that a child will receive health care, the lack of it is a clear indicator that a child is much less likely to receive health care than peers who have coverage. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey found that 2,000 children with public insurance such as Medicaid or the State Child Health Insurance Program (called FAMIS in Virginia) were less likely to have a usual source of health care than those with private insurance. Children with no health insurance, however, were nearly nine times more likely to have no regular source of health care than their peers with private insurance. The same survey revealed that 12% of children in families below the poverty line had no regular source of health care; this is twice as high as it is for children in higher income families.

Data on child health insurance enrollment are for Virginia's two public programs, Medicaid and FAMIS. Medicaid and Medicaid Expanded are entitlement programs funded by state and federal governments and are assistance programs that help pay for medical care for covered groups (pregnant women, children, and people with disabilities) with limited income and resources. FAMIS is Virginia's Family Access to Medical Insurance Security program, designed to help low-income working families provide health insurance for their children from birth to age 19. Data include the number of children by locality enrolled during December 2003 in Medicaid, Medicaid Expanded, FAMIS, and the total for all three programs. Also included is an estimate of children potentially eligible for one of these programs, the number estimated eligible but not enrolled, and the percent of the estimated eligible children in each locality who are enrolled. It is important to note that the enrollment data reflect net program enrollments. Net enrollment figures capture the enrollment in a program at the first of each month taking into account all enrollments and disenrollments from the previous month.

²²N.M. Krause & G. M. Jay (1994). What do global self-rated health items measure? *Medical Care*, 32(9), 930-942.

Child Health Insurance:

DECEMBER 2003 CHILDREN ELIGIBLE AND ENROLLED IN MEDICAID AND FAMIS

LOCALITY	MEDICAID	MEDICAID EXPANDED	FAMIS	CURRENT TOTAL ENROLLED	ESTIMATED ELIGIBLES AS OF 12-1-02	REMAINING ELIGIBLES TO ENROLL	% ENROLLED OF ESTIMATED ELIGIBLES
Virginia	312,328	21,228	35,030	368,586	411,642	43,056	90%
Accomack	2,608	230	245	3,083	3,814	731	81%
Albemarle	2,143	201	299	2,643	2,575	-68	103%
Alexandria	4,222	245	856	5,323	6,506	1,183	82%
Alleghany	1,273	63	96	1,432	1,864	432	77%
Amelia	607	30	59	696	600	-96	116%
Amherst	1,670	165	177	2,012	2,206	194	91%
Appomattox	807	49	90	946	1,138	192	83%
Arlington	3,941	348	1,188	5,477	6,959	1,482	79%
Augusta	3,695	172	329	4,196	3,955	-241	106%
Bath	151	17	26	194	180	-14	108%
Bedford City	included in Bedford County						
Bedford County	2,207	197	378	2,782	3,008	226	92%
Bland	265	19	42	326	374	48	87%
Botetourt	602	64	101	767	731	-36	105%
Bristol	1,353	73	66	1,492	1,660	168	90%
Brunswick	1,273	100	117	1,490	1,640	150	91%
Buchanan	2,278	141	323	2,742	3,607	865	76%
Buckingham	941	65	94	1,100	1,550	450	71%
Buena Vista	included in Rockbridge						
Campbell	2,786	297	297	3,380	3,485	105	97%
Caroline	1,339	80	161	1,580	1,622	42	97%
Carroll	1,775	162	214	2,151	2,134	-17	101%
Charles City	277	27	36	340	368	28	92%
Charlotte	805	66	115	986	1,177	191	84%
Charlottesville	2,282	125	245	2,652	3,414	762	78%
Chesapeake	8,275	448	903	9,626	11,291	1,665	85%
Chesterfield	8,984	770	1,127	10,881	9,054	-1,827	120%
Clarke	276	22	24	322	381	59	85%
Colonial Heights	included in Chesterfield						
Covington	included in Alleghany						
Craig	235	14	26	275	288	13	95%
Culpeper	1,385	102	215	1,702	1,750	48	97%
Cumberland	660	60	102	822	910	88	90%
Danville	4,388	183	186	4,757	6,207	1,450	77%
Dickenson	1,402	109	205	1,716	2,302	586	75%
Dinwiddie	1,239	104	114	1,457	1,457	0	100%
Emporia	included in Greensville						
Essex	796	59	56	911	881	-30	103%
Fairfax City	included in Fairfax County						
Fairfax County	20,737	1,899	4,220	26,856	25,811	-1,045	104%
Falls Church	included in Fairfax County						
Fauquier	1,407	120	162	1,689	1,570	-119	108%
Floyd	634	80	103	817	935	118	87%
Fluvanna	516	44	107	667	645	-22	103%
Franklin City	771	43	49	863	1,129	266	76%
Franklin County	2,459	144	301	2,904	2,860	-44	102%
Frederick	1,528	120	229	1,877	1,846	-31	102%
Fredericksburg	1,320	67	138	1,525	1,569	44	97%
Galax	619	50	59	728	883	155	82%
Giles	782	67	94	943	952	9	99%
Gloucester	1,248	122	220	1,590	1,763	173	90%
Goochland	412	51	45	508	527	19	96%
Grayson	1,055	93	151	1,299	1,349	50	96%
Greene	649	56	128	833	693	-140	120%
Greensville	1,076	85	69	1,230	1,355	125	91%
Halifax	2,482	240	218	2,940	3,125	185	94%
Hampton	8,712	645	733	10,090	11,187	1,097	90%
Hanover	1,725	176	234	2,135	1,905	-230	112%
Harrisonburg	included in Rockingham						
Henrico	8,952	625	1,250	10,827	10,388	-439	104%
Henry	4,874	367	349	5,590	5,404	-186	103%
Highland	89	6	19	114	151	37	75%
Hopewell	2,172	120	123	2,415	2,705	290	89%
Isle of Wight	1,370	78	116	1,564	1,668	104	94%
James City	1,524	114	141	1,779	1,699	-80	105%
King and Queen	444	43	57	544	495	-49	110%
King George	720	51	82	853	840	-13	102%

Child Health Insurance (cont'd):

DECEMBER 2003 CHILDREN ELIGIBLE AND ENROLLED IN MEDICAID AND FAMIS

LOCALITY	MEDICAID	MEDICAID EXPANDED	FAMIS	CURRENT TOTAL ENROLLED	ESTIMATED ELIGIBLES AS OF 12-1-02	REMAINING ELIGIBLES TO ENROLL	% ENROLLED OF ESTIMATED ELIGIBLES
King William	434	45	42	521	507	-14	103%
Lancaster	659	67	93	819	969	150	85%
Lee	2,332	142	279	2,753	3,539	786	78%
Lexington	included in Rockbridge						
Loudoun	2,861	180	528	3,569	2,645	-924	135%
Louisa	1,011	105	175	1,291	1,425	134	91%
Lunenburg	771	92	112	975	1,329	354	73%
Lynchburg	4,673	266	343	5,282	6,061	779	87%
Madison	390	64	86	540	603	63	90%
Manassas	1,732	110	363	2,205	1,778	-427	124%
Manassas Park	533	22	104	659	426	-233	155%
Martinsville	included in Henry						
Mathews	331	40	54	425	398	-27	107%
Mecklenburg	1,939	177	264	2,380	2,578	198	92%
Middlesex	398	35	62	495	675	180	73%
Montgomery	2,834	189	337	3,360	4,281	921	78%
Nelson	579	105	146	830	895	65	93%
New Kent	315	31	50	396	405	9	98%
Newport News	13,315	783	928	15,026	17,980	2,954	84%
Norfolk	18,515	786	1,035	20,336	27,762	7,426	73%
Northampton	1,149	118	117	1,384	1,709	325	81%
Northumberland	612	82	95	789	823	34	96%
Norton	354	9	22	385	590	205	65%
Nottoway	1,163	59	81	1,303	1,819	516	72%
Orange	981	157	146	1,284	1,316	32	98%
Page	1,153	102	150	1,405	1,508	103	93%
Patrick	1,293	71	82	1,446	1,476	30	98%
Petersburg	3,470	142	193	3,805	4,521	716	84%
Pittsylvania	3,183	216	296	3,695	3,896	201	95%
Poquoson	included in York						
Portsmouth	7,999	305	508	8,812	11,581	2,769	76%
Powhatan	425	47	76	548	690	142	79%
Prince Edward	1,215	88	101	1,404	1,777	373	79%
Prince George	831	44	96	971	1,420	449	68%
Prince William	11,023	601	1,452	13,076	11,371	-1,705	115%
Pulaski	1,867	141	180	2,188	2,407	219	91%
Radford	518	19	42	579	684	105	85%
Rappahannock	104	13	34	151	248	97	61%
Richmond City	21,088	646	1,089	22,823	30,902	8,079	74%
Richmond County	470	26	53	549	706	157	78%
Roanoke City	7,539	391	645	8,575	9,845	1,270	87%
Roanoke County	2,446	217	341	3,004	2,762	-242	109%
Rockbridge	1,160	127	154	1,441	1,559	118	92%
Rockingham	4,421	212	433	5,066	5,651	585	90%
Russell	2,230	150	248	2,628	3,337	709	79%
Salem	included in Roanoke County						
Scott	1,383	139	154	1,676	1,984	308	84%
Shenandoah	1,377	104	158	1,639	1,663	24	99%
Smyth	2,066	142	204	2,412	2,410	-2	100%
Southampton	899	54	78	1,031	1,297	266	79%
Spotsylvania	3,025	239	405	3,669	3,410	-259	108%
Stafford	3,197	199	320	3,716	2,888	-828	129%
Staunton	included in Augusta						
Suffolk	4,506	266	313	5,085	6,149	1,064	83%
Surry	323	40	46	409	500	91	82%
Sussex	646	57	83	786	999	213	79%
Tazewell	3,286	249	424	3,959	4,395	436	90%
Virginia Beach	12,051	1,255	1,770	15,076	17,693	2,617	85%
Warren	1,507	118	137	1,762	1,519	-243	116%
Washington	2,248	208	283	2,739	2,876	137	95%
Waynesboro	1,218	84	145	1,447	1,745	298	83%
Westmoreland	1,114	80	133	1,327	1,468	141	90%
Williamsburg	262	1	32	295	773	478	38%
Winchester	1,245	56	152	1,453	1,565	112	93%
Wise	3,778	207	330	4,315	5,527	1,212	78%
Wythe	1,594	104	160	1,858	1,822	-36	102%
York	1,070	91	159	1,320	1,563	243	84%

A negative number means the number of enrolled children exceeds the number of projected eligibles for the locality.



Foster Care

2002 NUMBER OF CHILDREN
UNDER AGE 6 ENTERING AND
EXITING FOSTER CARE, AND
RATE PER 1,000 CHILDREN

Children in out-of-home care often have serious medical and emotional problems, many caused by their experiences. There also tend to be a disproportionate number of children with special care needs (particularly with behavior problems) in foster care, perhaps as a result of the level of stress that caring for a child with special needs can cause. This can sometimes result in abuse or neglect. Children are usually resilient, and when placed in loving adoptive families or reunited with mothers who have been given appropriate support and are now able to cope, many are able to overcome their difficult beginnings and become successful in school and in life.

A child is placed in foster care when authorities determine that his or her family cannot provide a minimally safe environment. These data report the number of children under the age of 6 in each locality entering and exiting foster care in state fiscal year 2002 (SFY2002) (July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002), the average number of children under the age of 6 in each locality who were in foster care during calendar year 2002, and the rate per 1,000 children under the age of 6 who were in foster care in each locality. It should be noted that foster care placements are influenced by a number of factors including the availability of foster homes, and therefore these data should be interpreted cautiously.

Foster Care: 2002 NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6 ENTERING AND EXITING FOSTER CARE AND RATE PER 1,000 CHILDREN

LOCALITY	NUMBER ENTERING CARE SFY02	NUMBER EXITING CARE SFY02	AVERAGE NUMBER IN CARE CY2002	RATE PER 1,000 (BASED ON CENSUS)	LOCALITY	NUMBER ENTERING CARE SFY02	NUMBER EXITING CARE SFY02	AVERAGE NUMBER IN CARE CY2002	RATE PER 1,000 (BASED ON CENSUS)
Virginia	924	531	1393.8	2	King William	0	0	1.2	1
Accomack	3	1	5.8	2	Lancaster	3	0	2.5	4
Albemarle	10	4	15.5	3	Lee	12	9	24.6	16
Alexandria	13	13	32.8	3	Lexington	0	0	0.0	0
Alleghany	0	2	0.8	1	Loudoun	2	4	5.9	0
Amelia	0	0	0.0	0	Louisa	2	1	1.6	1
Amherst	0	0	3.2	1	Lunenburg	0	0	1.0	1
Appomattox	0	0	0.0	0	Lynchburg	16	16	21.3	4
Arlington	26	30	33.4	2	Madison	1	0	1.3	2
Augusta	17	5	16.8	4	Manassas	0	0	4.3	1
Bath	0	0	0.7	3	Manassas Park	0	0	0.0	0
Bedford City	7	2	10.2	21	Martinsville	3	1	3.9	3
Bedford County	16	3	20.8	5	Mathews	0	0	0.0	0
Bland	0	2	1.0	2	Mecklenburg	3	3	1.7	1
Botetourt	3	0	3.1	2	Middlesex	0	1	0.0	0
Bristol	4	0	6.3	6	Montgomery	10	3	11.8	3
Brunswick	1	1	2.3	2	Nelson	1	1	1.3	1
Buchanan	13	7	18.2	13	New Kent	1	0	0.8	1
Buckingham	0	0	6.2	7	Newport News	24	10	78.2	4
Buena Vista	0	0	0.0	0	Norfolk	56	35	70.0	3
Campbell	6	6	8.6	2	Northampton	0	0	0.0	0
Caroline	1	0	1.4	1	Northumberland	0	1	2.8	4
Carroll	8	5	3.7	2	Norton	3	3	4.9	16
Charles City	0	0	0.0	0	Nottoway	1	0	2.0	2
Charlotte	2	0	1.0	1	Orange	3	0	6.6	3
Charlottesville	11	3	22.9	9	Page	0	0	7.8	5
Chesapeake	13	4	33.2	2	Patrick	0	0	0.0	0
Chesterfield	8	5	22.2	1	Petersburg	17	4	29.6	11
Clarke	0	0	1.8	2	Pittsylvania	2	0	1.9	0
Colonial Heights	0	0	0.0	0	Poquoson	0	0	0.0	0
Covington	0	2	2.0	4	Portsmouth	32	24	38.5	4
Craig	4	1	2.0	6	Powhatan	0	0	1.3	1
Culpeper	1	0	5.8	2	Prince Edward	8	4	2.8	2
Cumberland	0	0	0.0	0	Prince George	0	0	1.8	1
Danville	6	5	9.6	3	Prince William	12	5	24.2	1
Dickenson	7	3	9.0	10	Pulaski	1	5	4.3	2
Dinwiddie	1	0	1.4	1	Radford	1	0	2.8	4
Emporia	0	0	1.5	3	Rappahannock	0	0	1.0	2
Essex	1	0	1.0	1	Richmond City	95	77	116.8	7
Fairfax City	0	2	0.4	0	Richmond County	0	1	1.0	2
Fairfax County	61	38	102.5	1	Roanoke City	52	26	58.1	7
Falls Church	0	0	0.0	0	Roanoke County	11	2	9.4	2
Fauquier	4	1	5.8	1	Rockbridge	1	1	3.0	2
Floyd	1	1	0.0	0	Rockingham	4	0	3.3	1
Fluvanna	1	0	0.9	1	Russell	9	1	5.3	3
Franklin City	2	0	0.8	1	Salem	1	2	1.5	1
Franklin County	3	3	4.6	1	Scott	8	6	7.3	5
Frederick	5	5	5.4	1	Shenandoah	0	4	0.8	0
Fredericksburg	2	0	15.3	9	Smyth	7	6	5.0	2
Galax	1	0	1.7	3	Southampton	0	0	0.0	0
Giles	7	3	4.8	4	Spotsylvania	7	6	9.9	1
Gloucester	5	2	9.7	4	Stafford	6	0	11.4	1
Goochland	4	2	4.3	4	Staunton	13	1	12.1	8
Grayson	4	2	1.8	2	Suffolk	14	5	18.3	3
Greene	0	0	1.8	1	Surry	0	0	0.6	1
Greensville	1	0	2.0	4	Sussex	2	1	2.3	3
Halifax	6	4	10.1	4	Tazewell	10	6	20.3	8
Hampton	22	13	51.5	4	Virginia Beach	40	25	64.1	2
Hanover	1	3	0.6	0	Warren	9	7	13.1	5
Harrisonburg	16	2	23.3	10	Washington	6	7	5.6	2
Henrico	11	3	17.3	1	Waynesboro	1	1	4.3	3
Henry	8	3	5.8	2	Westmoreland	2	2	2.5	2
Highland	0	0	0.0	0	Williamsburg	4	0	3.8	11
Hopewell	7	1	12.7	6	Winchester	2	0	11.4	6
Isle Of Wight	4	1	4.8	2	Wise	24	7	18.7	7
James City	11	8	12.2	4	Wythe	3	4	1.8	1
King And Queen	0	0	1.0	3	York	6	1	12.4	3
King George	4	1	1.2	1					

Child Care Subsidies

2002 FFY AVERAGE NUMBER
OF CHILDREN RECEIVING
CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES

Child care subsidies are an important element for helping low-income working families afford the ability to provide a safe and a nurturing environment for their children. The ability to experience high quality child care is critical to the healthy development of a child. Quality of care is associated with a child's capacity to develop intellectually, socially, and emotionally in the early years. Children receiving high quality care are more likely to enter school ready, eager, and prepared to learn.²³ Quality care results in higher test scores at school entry, less grade retention, and less need for special services.²⁴

Child care subsidies are funded by the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) through federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF) and state and local match funds. They provide assistance to low income families to help pay for child care. Subsidy rates are set for each locality based on the market rate for each area of the state, from a market rate survey that is done every two years. Determinations of eligibility for TANF and non-TANF families are made on the basis of criteria based on family size, family income, and employment/education status. Priority is given to families with very low incomes, those who are homeless and those with children with disabilities. Child care subsidy funds are finite and not all families who are eligible receive assistance.

Data presented for Federal Fiscal Year 2002 (FFY2002) (October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2002) indicate the number of homeless children in Virginia receiving child care subsidies (502); the number of children with special needs in Virginia receiving child care subsidies (144); the population of children birth to age twelve by locality (Virginia Center for Health Statistics); the number of children by locality receiving subsidies in FFY 2002; and the percentage of the population birth to age 12 in each locality receiving subsidies in FFY 2002. Note that in Virginia 4% of children birth to 12 years of age received a child care subsidy; the range among localities is from a low of less than 1% to a high of 19%.

²³ Carnegie Corporation of New York (1994). *Starting points: Meeting the needs of our youngest children.*

²⁴ J. Currie (2001). Early childhood education programs. *No 149, UCLA Economics Online Papers* from UCLA Department of Economics.

Child Care Subsidies:

2002 FFY AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN RECEIVING CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES

Homeless children served through Housing contract 502
 Special needs children served through MHMRSAS contract 144

LOCALITY	2002 POPULATION 0-12	FFY 02 NUMBER SUBSIDY CHILDREN	PERCENT
Virginia	1,278,866	52,466	4%
Accomack	6,624	305	5%
Albemarle	14,039	311	2%
Alexandria	18,886	1,112	6%
Alleghany	2,574	161	6%
Amelia	2,000	33	2%
Amherst	5,022	210	4%
Appomattox	2,278	87	4%
Arlington	24,709	645	3%
Augusta	10,524	264	3%
Bath	681	2	0%
Bedford City	included in Bedford County		
Bedford County	9,826	284	3%
Bland	902	27	3%
Botetourt	4,773	106	2%
Bristol	2,490	235	9%
Brunswick	2,562	164	6%
Buchanan	3,539	156	4%
Buckingham	2,183	79	4%
Buena Vista	1,025	22	2%
Campbell	8,539	288	3%
Caroline	3,840	231	6%
Carroll	4,186	175	4%
Charles City	1,031	41	4%
Charlotte	2,043	23	1%
Charlottesville	5,208	662	13%
Chesapeake	40,414	1,599	4%
Chesterfield	51,200	1,025	2%
Clarke	2,086	34	2%
Clifton Forge	included in Alleghany		
Colonial Heights	2,578	61	2%
Covington	1,031	103	10%
Craig	802	7	1%
Culpeper	6,440	290	5%
Cumberland	1,492	25	2%
Danville	7,768	816	11%
Dickenson	2,250	83	4%
Dinwiddie	3,993	124	3%
Emporia	1,070		
Essex	1,617	114	7%
Fairfax City	included in Fairfax County		
Fairfax County	185,243	5,951	3%
Falls Church	included in Fairfax County		
Fauquier	10,439	277	3%
Floyd	2,163	47	2%
Fluvanna	3,647	142	4%
Franklin City	1,394	140	10%
Franklin County	7,451	230	3%
Frederick	11,413	205	2%
Fredericksburg	3,108	354	11%
Galax	1,146	113	10%
Giles	2,749	53	2%
Gloucester	6,039	196	3%
Goochland	2,514	74	3%
Grayson	2,387	77	3%
Greene	3,217	112	3%
Greensville	1,335	216	9%
Halifax	6,116	177	3%
Hampton	25,312	1,042	4%
Hanover	16,553	236	1%
Harrisonburg	4,588	214	5%
Henrico	48,600	325	1%
Henry	8,697	1,688	19%
Highland	277	3	1%
Hopewell	4,464	388	9%
Isle of Wight	5,233	127	2%
James City County	7,735	335	4%
King and Queen	967	34	4%

LOCALITY	2002 POPULATION 0-12	FFY02 NUMBER SUBSIDY CHILDREN	PERCENT
King George	3,402	98	3%
King William	2,473	39	2%
Lancaster	1,430	86	6%
Lee	3,577	123	3%
Lexington	534	21	4%
Loudoun	46,195	637	1%
Louisa	4,488	112	2%
Lunenburg	1,782	40	2%
Lynchburg	10,423	725	7%
Madison	1,931	36	2%
Manassas	8,556	153	2%
Manassas Park	2,574	54	2%
Martinsville	2,428	218	9%
Mathews	1,190	43	4%
Mecklenburg	4,721	150	3%
Middlesex	1,255	44	4%
Montgomery	10,118	527	5%
Nelson	2,103	57	3%
New Kent	2,333	68	3%
Newport News	38,257	2,643	7%
Norfolk	44,153	3,831	9%
Northampton	1,977	147	7%
Northumberland	1,563	67	4%
Norton	652	72	11%
Nottoway	2,571	86	3%
Orange	4,316	180	4%
Page	3,656	120	3%
Patrick	2,874	177	6%
Petersburg	6,006	688	11%
Pittsylvania	9,580	378	4%
Poquoson	included in York		
Portsmouth	18,903	1,526	8%
Powhatan	3,891	53	1%
Prince Edward	2,748	93	3%
Prince George	5,816	139	2%
Prince William	68,545	2,019	3%
Pulaski	5,132	225	4%
Radford	1,424	78	5%
Rappahannock	1,028	51	5%
Richmond City	33,160	3,679	11%
Richmond County	1,026	33	3%
Roanoke City	16,500	1,367	8%
Roanoke County	12,974	581	4%
Rockbridge	2,994	46	2%
Rockingham	11,607	155	1%
Russell	4,313	147	3%
Salem	included in Roanoke County		
Scott	3,225	91	3%
Shenandoah	5,599	150	3%
Smyth	4,906	311	6%
Southampton	2,584	151	6%
Spotsylvania	20,808	410	2%
Stafford	22,271	400	2%
Staunton	3,333	222	7%
Suffolk	13,616	721	5%
Surry	1,144	109	10%
Sussex	1,702	139	8%
Tazewell	6,273	313	5%
Virginia Beach	84,688	3,193	4%
Warren	5,933	181	3%
Washington	7,197	178	2%
Waynesboro	3,531	135	4%
Westmoreland	2,475	163	7%
Williamsburg	718	93	13%
Winchester	3,872	158	4%
Wise	6,208	328	5%
Wythe	4,147	291	7%
York	11,176	257	2%

Early Intervention

2002 BIRTH TO THREE YEAR OLDS IN COMMUNITY EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

Part C of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) provides identification, the creation of an individualized family service plan (IFSP), and early intervention for children with special needs under the age of 3. Among older children in the birth to 3 age group, a speech or communication problem is the most frequent reason for early intervention services. Some of the children seen for speech or communication problems will not require on-going special education, but some will. The ones who receive early assistance and overcome their communication problems exit the special education system prior to school enrollment. Early intervention is crucial to help children who have identified problems succeed at their ability level.

Virginia's early intervention system, "Infant and Toddler Connections of Virginia," serves children from birth to age 2 or 3 (family choice) who have identified disabilities and/or developmental delays. Services are provided under Part C of the federal *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA). Every city and county is served by one of the forty early intervention councils. The following data show the number of children in each age group (under a year of age, one year olds, and two year olds) enrolled in services on December 1, 2002 in each of the forty local councils and the total number served in each of the forty councils. The percentages represent the proportion in each age group served by each council (e.g., in Alexandria, 20.83% of the children served are under a year of age, 36.11% are one year olds, and 43.06 are two year olds). Children served meet eligibility criteria established by the Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council (25% or greater delay in one or more developmental areas; atypical development; or a diagnosed physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in a delay).

Note: These are children served in the community early intervention programs; there are also some infants and toddlers with disabilities and/or developmental delays who are served in Virginia's public schools. See the preschool special education data for those numbers.

Early Intervention:

2002 BIRTH TO THREE YEAR OLDS IN COMMUNITY EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

COUNCIL	LOCALITIES	NUMBER ENROLLED < AGE 1	% OF TOTAL ENROLLEES < AGE 1	NUMBER 1 YEAR OLDS ENROLLED	% OF TOTAL ENROLLEES 1 YEAR OLD	NUMBER OF 2 YEAR OLDS ENROLLED	% OF TOTAL ENROLLEES 2 YEAR OLDS	TOTAL NUMBER CHILDREN ENROLLED BIRTH TO THREE
Virginia		554	14.0	1,556	39.4	1842	46.6	3,952
Alexandria	Alexandria	15	20.8	26	36.1	31	43.1	72
Alleghany-Highland	Alleghany	3	9.4	16	50.0	13	40.6	32
	Clifton Forge							
	Covington							
Arlington County	Arlington	22	12.7	87	50.3	64	37.0	173
Blue Ridge/Region 10	Albemarle	9	13.0	26	37.7	34	49.3	69
	Charlottesville							
	Fluvanna							
	Greene							
	Louisa							
Central Virginia	Nelson							
	Amherst	17	14.7	36	31.0	63	54.3	116
	Appomattox							
	Bedford City							
	Bedford County							
Chesapeake	Campbell							
	Lynchburg							
Chesapeake	Chesapeake	10	10.8	34	36.6	49	52.7	93
Chesterfield	Chesterfield	36	16.7	76	35.4	103	47.9	215
Colonial	James City	5	5.9	36	42.4	44	51.8	85
	Poquoson							
	Williamsburg							
Crossroads/LINC	York							
	Amelia	0	0.0	3	11.1	24	88.9	27
	Buckingham							
	Charlotte							
	Cumberland							
	Lunenburg							
Cumberland Mountain	Nottoway							
	Prince Edward							
	Buchanan	3	7.0	20	46.5	20	46.5	43
Danville-Pittsylvania	Russell							
	Tazewell							
Danville-Pittsylvania	Danville	2	5.1	15	38.5	22	56.4	39
Dickenson County	Pittsylvania							
	Dickenson	1	20.0	1	20.0	3	60.0	5
District 19/Crater	Colonial Heights	6	7.2	26	31.3	51	61.5	83
	Dinwiddie							
	Emporia							
	Greensville							
	Hopewell							
	Petersburg							
	Prince George							
	Surry							
	Sussex							
	Accomack							
Eastern Shore	Northampton	8	10.7	20	26.7	47	62.7	75
	Fairfax-Falls Church							
Fairfax-Falls Church	Fairfax City	64	14.8	213	49.1	157	36.2	434
	Fairfax County							
	Falls Church							
Goochland-Powhatan	Goochland	5	17.2	5	17.2	19	65.5	29
	Powhatan							
Greater Roanoke	Botetourt	21	13.6	54	35.1	79	51.3	154
	Craig							
	Roanoke City							
	Roanoke County							
Hampton-Newport News	Salem							
	Hampton	32	15.4	92	44.2	84	40.4	208
Hanover County	Newport News							
	Hanover	5	9.6	18	34.6	29	55.8	52
Harrisonburg-Rockingham	Harrisonburg	6	15.8	19	50.0	13	34.2	38
	Rockingham							
Henrico Area	Charles City	25	9.5	89	33.7	150	56.8	264
	Henrico							
	New Kent							
Highlands	Bristol	3	8.1	14	37.8	20	54.1	37
	Washington							

Early Intervention (cont'd):

2002 BIRTH TO THREE YEAR OLDS IN COMMUNITY EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

COUNCIL	LOCALITIES	NUMBER ENROLLED < AGE 1	% TOTAL ENROLLEES <1	NUMBER 1 YEAR OLDS ENROLLED	% OF TOTAL ENROLLEES 1 YEAR OLD	NUMBER OF 2 YEAR OLDS ENROLLED	% OF TOTAL ENROLLEES 2 YEAR OLDS	TOTAL NUMBER CHILDREN ENROLLED BIRTH TO THREE
Loudoun County	Loudoun	17	18.1	41	43.6	36	38.3	94
Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck	Essex Gloucester King and Queen King William Lancaster Mathews Middlesex Northumberland Richmond County Westmoreland	12	14.6	29	35.4	41	50.0	82
Mount Rogers	Bland Carroll Galax Grayson Smyth Wythe	17	29.3	25	43.1	16	27.6	58
New River Valley	Floyd Giles Montgomery Pulaski Radford	9	12.0	27	36.0	39	52.0	75
Norfolk	Norfolk	19	13.1	55	37.9	71	49.0	145
Piedmont Regional	Franklin County Henry Martinsville Patrick	10	20.8	19	39.6	19	39.6	48
Planning District I	Lee Norton Scott Wise	10	21.3	19	40.4	18	38.3	47
Portsmouth	Portsmouth	10	13.9	33	45.8	29	40.3	72
Prince William County	Manassas Manassas Park Prince William	20	14.0	80	55.9	43	30.1	143
Rappahannock Area	Caroline Fredericksburg King George Spotsylvania Stafford	16	11.9	55	40.7	64	47.4	135
Rappahannock-Rapidan	Culpeper Fauquier Madison Orange Rappahannock	7	9.7	26	36.1	39	54.2	72
Richmond	Richmond City	25	15.8	53	33.5	80	50.6	158
Rockbridge Area	Bath Buena Vista Lexington Rockbridge	6	27.3	10	45.5	6	27.3	22
Shenandoah Valley	Clarke Frederick Page Shenandoah Warren Winchester	18	22.5	28	35.0	34	42.5	80
Southside	Brunswick Halifax Mecklenburg	1	6.3	6	37.5	9	56.3	16
Valley	Augusta Highland Staunton Waynesboro	11	17.7	20	32.3	31	50.0	62
Virginia Beach	Virginia Beach	39	20.2	78	40.4	76	39.4	193
Western Tidewater	Franklin City Isle of Wight Southampton Suffolk	9	8.4	26	24.3	72	67.3	107



Preschool Special Education

2002 NUMBER AND RATES PER
1,000 OF BIRTH TO SIX YEAR OLDS
IN PUBLIC SCHOOL SPECIAL
EDUCATION PROGRAMS

A child greatly benefits from early identification. Enrollment in services accomplished at least two years prior to kindergarten can produce a savings of an estimated \$30,000 to \$100,000 per child.²⁵

Part B of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) entitles all children with disabilities a free appropriate public education (FAPE). Virginia school divisions are required to serve eligible children ages 2 – 22 in special education programs under Part B of the federal *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA); children under age 3 who are eligible for early intervention services under Part C of the IDEA may access services from schools as well. Data show the number of eligible children birth to age 3 and 3 to age 6 who were receiving special education services in public school divisions in Virginia on December 1, 2002. These data include children with mental retardation, severe disabilities, hearing impairments, speech or language impairments, visual impairments, emotional disturbance, orthopedic impairments, other health impairments, specific learning disabilities, deaf-blindness, multiple disabilities, autism, traumatic brain injuries, and developmental delay.

The number of children enrolled in programs can be compared to the number of children potentially eligible for services – these estimates range from between 5 to 9% to 12 to 16% of all children in the United States.²⁶

²⁵ F.P. Glascoe, (August 2000). Early detection of developmental and behavioral problems. *Pediatrics in Review*, 21(8).

²⁶ Lower estimate is from testimony of Dr. Thomas Insel, Director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) before the Senate Subcommittee on Labor-HHS Appropriations, April 8, 2003; higher estimate is from the Committee on Children with Disabilities, American Academy of Pediatrics, Policy Statement on *Developmental Surveillance; and Screening of Infants and Young Children*, July 2001.

Preschool Special Education: 2002 NUMBER AND RATES PER 1,000 OF BIRTH TO SIX YEAR OLDS IN PUBLIC SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

LOCALITY	ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AGES 0-2	ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AGES 3-5	TOTAL ELIGIBLE CHILDREN < 6	RATE OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN PER 1,000 IN 0 TO 6 POP.	LOCALITY	ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AGES 0-2	ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AGES 3-5	TOTAL ELIGIBLE CHILDREN < 6	RATE OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN PER 1,000 IN 0 TO 6 POP.
Virginia	1,010	15,680	16,690	29	King William	4	42	46	41
Accomack	3	79	82	28	Lancaster	2	11	13	21
Albemarle	14	172	186	30	Lee	0	77	77	50
Alexandria	22	217	239	21	Lexington	0	9	9	34
Alleghany	3	43	46	42	Loudoun	57	531	588	26
Amelia	2	10	12	13	Louisa	3	53	56	29
Amherst	3	64	67	31	Lunenburg	4	27	31	42
Appomattox	1	18	19	20	Lynchburg	12	132	144	30
Arlington	36	335	371	28	Madison	0	28	28	38
Augusta	9	155	164	38	Manassas	8	77	85	20
Bath	2	8	10	40	Manassas Park	0	31	31	25
Bedford City	included in Bedford County				Martinsville	4	15	19	17
Bedford County	3	153	156	35	Mathews	1	26	27	55
Bland	1	27	28	69	Mecklenburg	2	60	62	30
Botetourt	3	49	52	26	Middlesex	1	25	26	54
Bristol	2	47	49	45	Montgomery	1	94	95	20
Brunswick	1	21	22	20	Nelson	0	34	34	36
Buchanan	2	96	98	69	New Kent	1	37	38	40
Buckingham	1	24	25	30	Newport News	33	497	530	29
Buena Vista	0	28	28	57	Norfolk	33	425	458	21
Campbell	4	88	92	25	Northampton	4	35	39	46
Caroline	2	69	71	43	Northumberland	0	24	24	37
Carroll	2	83	85	50	Norton	0	15	15	49
Charles City	0	11	11	24	Nottoway	5	26	31	27
Charlotte	4	30	34	39	Orange	1	62	63	33
Charlottesville	6	91	97	36	Page	3	36	39	25
Chesapeake	29	568	597	34	Patrick	0	54	54	44
Chesterfield	33	540	573	27	Petersburg	1	48	49	18
Clarke	1	32	33	42	Pittsylvania	8	50	58	14
Colonial Beach	0	15	15	N/A	Poquoson	0	34	34	52
Colonial Heights	0	31	31	29	Portsmouth	16	237	253	28
Covington	1	32	33	70	Powhatan	4	80	84	52
Craig	1	14	15	46	Prince Edward	3	42	45	37
Culpeper	4	69	73	27	Prince George	4	70	74	30
Cumberland	1	23	24	40	Prince William	75	736	811	25
Danville	1	54	55	16	Pulaski	0	82	82	36
Dickenson	1	53	54	58	Radford	2	19	21	28
Dinwiddie	1	29	30	19	Rappahannock	0	19	19	44
Emporia	included in Greensville			0	Richmond City	7	182	189	12
Essex	3	29	32	48	Richmond County	1	18	19	43
Fairfax City	included in Fairfax County			0	Roanoke City	33	267	300	38
Fairfax County	184	2000	2184	25	Roanoke County	11	198	209	41
Falls Church	0	27	27	37	Rockbridge	1	42	43	34
Fauquier	8	150	158	37	Rockingham	5	182	187	38
Floyd	5	57	62	69	Russell	1	95	96	53
Fluvanna	4	42	46	30	Salem	0	39	39	28
Franklin City	1	24	25	43	Scott	0	59	59	44
Franklin County	5	122	127	40	Shenandoah	3	74	77	32
Frederick	4	138	142	29	Smyth	2	108	110	54
Fredericksburg	5	51	56	32	Southampton	1	61	62	59
Galax	0	16	16	28	Spotsylvania	22	245	267	30
Giles	0	22	22	17	Stafford	17	252	269	29
Gloucester	7	69	76	31	Staunton	3	48	51	33
Goochland	1	43	44	41	Suffolk	0	143	143	24
Grayson	0	54	54	54	Surry	0	16	16	33
Greene	3	46	49	34	Sussex	1	16	17	23
Greensville	2	41	43	40	Tazewell	4	118	122	47
Halifax	7	189	196	73	Virginia Beach	65	947	1012	27
Hampton	31	293	324	28	Warren	1	68	69	27
Hanover	13	280	293	43	Washington	2	122	124	40
Harrisonburg	5	85	90	39	Waynesboro	1	35	36	22
Henrico	14	445	459	21	West Point	1	10	11	N/A
Henry	9	172	181	48	Westmoreland	3	36	39	39
Highland	0	8	8	86	Williamsburg	5	120	125	36
Hopewell	1	63	64	31	Winchester	1	50	51	29
Isle of Wight	3	54	57	26	Wise	1	106	107	40
James City	included in Williamsburg			0	Wythe	2	61	63	36
King and Queen	1	28	29	74	York	6	120	126	29
King George	3	16	19	13					

Head Start and Early Head Start

2002 HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START ENROLLMENTS BY GRANTEE

Children from low-income families have comprehensive needs, such as health, nutrition, dental care, and a curriculum that provides training to build literacy and numeric competencies required for success in school. These children often do not have exposure at home to reading or to skill-building toys and games. Head Start is a comprehensive program that provides children with the services they need as well as supports and education for parents. Such comprehensive programs have been found to be the most effective in outcomes for the most vulnerable children and families.²⁷ Head Start can provide a preschool experience to help children make gains – cognitively, socially, emotionally, and physically – before they enter formal schooling. It also offers an opportunity to help parents understand what they can do to support their children's success.

Early Head Start is a child development program for low-income families with children under age 3 and for expectant families. Each Early Head Start program is responsible for determining its own eligibility criteria. Family income is one key factor in determining eligibility. The federal poverty guidelines are used to evaluate family income. Each Early Head Start program may elect to target their services to a particular population to best meet the unique needs of families and children in their

community. In addition, Early Head Start programs must make available at least 10% of their enrollment opportunities to children with disabilities who are eligible for Part C services under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA). Evaluation of Early Head Start has shown positive gains for both children and their parents. It is clear from brain research and studies in programs that have provided services from birth to school that children who are most at-risk can benefit from such comprehensive, intensive programs.²⁸

Head Start is a child development program that serves income eligible families with children 3 to 5 years of age. Eligibility is based upon local and federal income and child age requirements. Ten percent of Head Start enrollment is to serve children with special needs. Children with disabilities are integrated into the Head Start program. Children and families enrolled in Head Start receive assistance with child education and development; social services; health services (medical, dental, nutrition, mental health); parent education; family literacy; and English as a Second Language (ESL).

Head Start and Early Head Start programs are funded through federal grants. Each program is on an individual grant cycle and each program serves a specific geographic area.

Data in the following table report the number of children enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start in 2002. Note that Head Start numbers are for three and four year olds and that Early Head Start numbers are for children birth to three.

²⁷ The Carolina Abecedarian Project:
<http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~abc/>.

²⁸ S.L. Kagan & M.J. Newman (1997). Defining and implementing school readiness: Challenges for families, early care and education, and schools. In R.P. Weissbert, T.P. Gullotta, R.L. Hampton, B.A. Ryan, and G.R. Adams (eds.), *Healthy children 2010: Establishing preventive services*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Head Start and Early Head Start:

2002 HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START ENROLLMENTS BY GRANTEE

PROGRAM AND LOCALITY SERVED	HEAD START	EARLY HEAD START
ALL HEAD STARTS	9894	947
Virginia		
HEAD START		
Appalachian Regional Community Head Start Serving: Wise, Dickenson, Norton City	449	0
Arlington Community Action, Inc. Arlington	293	0
Augusta County School Board Augusta	274	0
Buchanan County Board of Supervisors Buchanan	189	0
Chilhelp/Tyler Village Foundation Culpeper	128	0
Community Improvement Council, Inc. Danville	204	0
Dinwiddie County Public Schools Dinwiddie	72	0
Eastern Shore Community Development Group Accomack, Northampton	256	0
Fairfax County Dept. of Family Services/Office for Children Fairfax, Fairfax City, Falls Church	434	0
Halifax County Community Action Agency, Inc. Halifax, Mecklenburg	181	0
Hanover County Public Schools Hanover	123	0
Henrico County Public Schools Henrico	172	0
Hopewell Public Schools Hopewell	172	0
Lee County School District Lee	213	0
Loudoun County Public Schools Loudoun	100	0
Lynchburg Community Action Group, Inc. Lynchburg, Amherst, Bedford	452	0
Mountain Community Action Program, Inc. Smyth, Wythe, Bland	409	0
New River Community Action, Inc. Radford, Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski	340	0
Northern Neck Alliance, Inc. Westmoreland, Richmond County, Essex, Lancaster, Northumberland, Colonial Beach	126	0
Orange County Board of Education Orange	134	0
Parent Child Development Center Matthews, Middlesex, Gloucester	116	0
People Incorporated Washington, Russell, Bristol	375	0
Prince William County Public Schools Prince William, Manassas City, Manassas Park	289	0

PROGRAM AND LOCALITY SERVED	HEAD START	EARLY HEAD START
Quin Rivers Agency For Community Action Caroline, Charles City, King and Queen, King William, New Kent	195	0
Richmond City Public School District Richmond	922	0
Scott County Public Schools Scott	173	0
Skyline Cap Greene, Page, Warren, Shenandoah, Rappahannock, Madison	181	0
Southeastern Tidewater Opportunity Project (Stop Org) Chesapeake, Franklin City, Isle of Wight, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Southampton, Virginia Beach	1501	0
Step, Incorporated Franklin County, Patrick	138	0
Sussex-Surry-Greenville County Improvement Assn. Sussex, Surry, Greenville	190	0
Total Action Against Poverty Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin County, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Buena Vista, Covington, Lexington, Roanoke City, Salem	784	0
Tri-County Virginia Opportunities Industrialization Center Winchester	162	0
Williamsburg-James City CAA Williamsburg, James City	147	0
EARLY HEAD START		
Appalachian Regional Community Head Start Wise, Dickenson, Norton	0	40
Child Development Resources, Inc. Williamsburg, James City, York	0	116
Fairfax County Department of Family Services/ Office for Children Fairfax City Board of Supervisors/ Dept. of Family Services	0	60
Northern VA Family Services, Div. of Early Childhood Prince William, Manassas City, Manassas Park, Loudoun, Arlington	0	220
Office of Human Affairs Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson	0	32
Orange County Board of Education Orange	0	25
People Incorporated Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell, Washington, Bristol	0	82
The Children's Center Southampton, Franklin City	0	148
Total Action Against Poverty Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin County, Roanoke County, Rockbridge, Buena Vista, Covington, Lexington, Roanoke City, Salem	0	97

Data Source: Virginia Department of Social Services

At-Risk 4 Year Olds

2003/04 PROJECTIONS; 2000/01 TITLE I &
HEAD START ENROLLEES; 2003 VIRGINIA
PRESCHOOL INITIATIVE ENROLLEES

Virginia's Preschool Initiative (VPI) is designed to provide state funds to serve 60% of Virginia's estimated at-risk 4 year olds who are not being served by federal programs such as Head Start or Title I. The purpose of the VPI grant is to provide programs to reduce disparities among young children upon formal school entry and to reduce or eliminate those risk factors that lead to early academic failure. To obtain funding, each program must include five essential components: quality preschool education; parental involvement; health services; social services; and transportation. Localities are required to coordinate resources and funding streams to serve the greatest number of 4 year old children, but must serve, at a minimum, the number of children for which funds are allocated. Programs can be operated by public schools or community organizations.

- a. Estimates of 4 year old children by locality were derived from population projections provided by the Virginia Employment Commission
- b. Estimate for Colonial Beach is included in Westmoreland
- c. Estimate for King William is included in West Point
- d. Estimate for Emporia is included in Greensville
- e. Estimate for James City is included in Williamsburg

At-Risk 4 Year Olds: 2003-2004 PROJECTIONS; 2000-2001 TITLE I AND HEAD START ENROLLEES; 2003 VIRGINIA PRESCHOOL INITIATIVE ENROLLEES

DIVISION	2003-04 ^a PROJECTED 4 YR. OLDS	2000-01 % FREE LUNCH	2003-04 EST. OF 4 YR. OLDS AT RISK	2000-01 TITLE I PRE- SCHOOL	2000-01 HEAD START 4 YR. OLDS	2003 VA PRESCHOOL INITIATIVE 4YR. OLDS SERVED IN ELIGIBLE LOCAL	DIVISION	2003-04 ^a PROJECTED 4 YR. OLDS	2000-01 % FREE LUNCH	2003-04 EST. OF 4 YR. OLDS AT RISK	2000-01 TITLE I PRE- SCHOOL	2000-01 HEAD START 4 YR. OLDS	2003 VA PRESCHOOL INITIATIVE 4YR. OLDS SERVED IN ELIGIBLE LOCAL
Virginia	97,808		22,967	4,773	7,076	5,886	King William	145	17%	25	20	17	c
Accomack	473	52%	246	0	128	48	Lancaster	128	37%	48	36	16	
Albemarle	1221	13%	165	0	32	80	Lee	279	50%	140	0	129	7
Alexandria	1470	40%	587	0	140	168	Lexington	46	13%	6	0	10	
Alleghany	168	24%	40	0	12	13	Loudoun	2571	6%	151	0	85	
Amelia	130	25%	33	0	25	4	Louisa	334	25%	83	0	8	37
Amherst	359	23%	83	0	37	28	Lunenburg	115	45%	52	60	23	
Appomattox	160	25%	40	0	18	10	Lynchburg	853	38%	324	85	127	32
Arlington	2259	32%	713	48	183	216	Madison	162	15%	25	0	31	
Augusta	806	15%	119	0	26	32	Manassas City	633	16%	100	0	34	
Bath	64	17%	11	0	8	0	Manassas Park	159	20%	31	0	17	8
Bedford City	78	18%	14	0	0	0	Martinsville	167	38%	64	0	34	18
Bedford County	739	18%	132	0	71	35	Mathews	91	17%	16	0	5	
Bland	88	20%	17	0	10	4	Mecklenburg	310	38%	117	36	19	37
Botetourt	263	8%	20	0	12	0	Middlesex	98	22%	22	15	13	
Bristol	204	35%	71	62	43		Montgomery	836	20%	165	0	48	128
Brunswick	166	49%	82	137	42		Nelson	152	25%	38	28	24	
Buchanan	307	52%	159	59	126		New Kent	186	10%	18	0	19	
Buckingham	187	41%	77	16	26	20	Newport News	3100	38%	1170	1408	77	
Buena Vista	65	21%	14	0	16		Norfolk	3790	48%	1838	464	150	734
Campbell	663	21%	139	48	20	43	Northampton	182	57%	103	0	61	26
Caroline	315	30%	95	64	41		Northumberland	126	36%	45	32	9	
Carroll	327	29%	96	0	51	27	Norton	62	38%	24	0	38	
Charles City	84	34%	29	20	11		Nottoway	181	41%	75	60	21	
Charlotte	160	35%	56	80	15		Orange	313	21%	65	0	89	
Charlottesville	502	37%	188	64	30	57	Page	287	25%	73	0	10	38
Chesapeake	3648	18%	662	0	149	240	Patrick	183	29%	53	0	41	
Chesterfield	3478	13%	461	32	146		Petersburg	466	60%	278	108	78	58
Clarke	172	8%	14	30	9		Pittsylvania	642	25%	163	30	63	43
Colonial Beach	36	31%	11	0	12	b	Poquoson	107	3%	3	0	0	
Colonial Heights	168	13%	22	0	0		Portsmouth	1617	48%	783	240	75	285
Covington	74	27%	20	0	13	2	Powhatan	284	8%	24	0	24	
Craig	50	14%	7	0	32		Prince Edward	245	44%	109	30	20	35
Culpeper	510	24%	124	0	70	16	Prince George	458	20%	89	0	0	47
Cumberland	92	45%	41	57	11		Prince William	4546	15%	663	0	193	
Danville	590	51%	300	145	87	42	Pulaski	318	24%	78	0	50	17
Dickenson	178	44%	79	72	80		Rappahannock	113	15%	17	0	13	
Dinwiddie	308	24%	72	0	34	14	Richmond City	2463	58%	1424	32	519	531
Emporia	71	46%	33	0	12	d	Richmond County	118	25%	30	0	13	10
Essex	130	39%	51	16	9	16	Roanoke City	1403	47%	653	173	221	158
Fairfax City	237	12%	28	0	0		Roanoke County	970	7%	67	0	12	33
Fairfax County	13625	12%	1636	0	239	719	Rockbridge	242	18%	43	0	30	8
Falls Church	100	7%	7	0	0		Rockingham	945	16%	152	48	8	57
Fauquier	772	11%	88	0	57	12	Russell	301	36%	108	96	100	
Floyd	133	22%	29	0	17	7	Salem	264	11%	28	0	35	
Fluvanna	275	13%	36	30	11		Scott	265	33%	87	0	104	
Franklin City	116	50%	57	0	15	8	Shenandoah	458	16%	73	0	11	37
Franklin County	572	29%	164	80	79	2	Smyth	404	30%	120	18	74	16
Frederick	791	10%	80	0	35		Southampton	168	33%	55	0	20	22
Fredericksburg	325	39%	127	0	68	16	Spotsylvania	1615	12%	192	0	85	
Galax	92	35%	32	18	22		Stafford	1411	11%	148	0	164	
Giles	187	18%	34	0	43		Staunton	280	33%	94	0	8	32
Gloucester	408	19%	77	0	52		Suffolk	882	35%	312	0	60	149
Goochland	191	14%	26	0	9	10	Surry	71	39%	27	0	0	16
Grayson	173	34%	58	0	30	17	Sussex	135	52%	70	0	47	
Greene	244	16%	39	0	24	8	Tazewell	531	40%	214	0	124	55
Greensville	133	46%	61	64	20	13	Virginia Beach	7912	16%	1281	0	80	704
Halifax	496	37%	185	64	63	35	Warren	466	16%	73	0	15	28
Hampton	1932	28%	546	72	90	231	Washington	580	27%	154	82	114	
Hanover	1310	7%	97	0	74		Waynesboro	265	28%	74	45	31	
Harrisonburg	372	33%	122	0	42	16	West Point	34	10%	4	0	0	2
Henrico	3488	18%	622	90	155	64	Westmoreland	201	41%	83	44	7	16
Henry	605	28%	166	31	19	71	Williamsburg	78	20%	16	0	12	32
Highland	19	19%	4	0	4		Winchester	302	25%	75	56	30	
Hopewell	319	43%	137	0	109	17	Wise	567	35%	197	128	142	
Isle of Wight	343	25%	86	0	15	42	Wythe	327	25%	82	0	63	11
James City	687	20%	138	0	58	e	York	756	8%	61	0	72	
King & Queen	82	47%	39	0	30								
King George	228	16%	38	0	28	16							



Next Steps

NO TIME TO WASTE

The collaboration and energy of the State Team and Voices for Virginia's Children made the collection and publication of these data possible. The goal is to raise awareness of the importance of a child's readiness to attend school and factors that contribute to this readiness. Increased awareness and greater focus on the factors that influence readiness will inspire citizens and state and local policymakers to make informed decisions for improvements that affect school readiness.

This report identifies school readiness data elements that currently exist. While it is an important first step, much remains to ensure continual progress in increasing the number of children who enter school healthy and ready to learn. A close analysis of these data will determine what lessons can be learned and what meaningful improvements can be made. The indicators point to strengths and weaknesses in how well Virginia children are prepared to succeed in school. Often there is significant variation among Virginia's 134 localities on a given indicator. Sometimes the difference is expected, given wide differences in population or capacity of a locality. Sometimes the numbers surprise us. Two localities, seemingly similar on socioeconomic variables, for example, may differ widely on an indicator. Whether at the state or local level, the data can assist us to identify strengths to maximize, as well as areas of weakness that require attention.

The data provide significant information to facilitate discussions on what can be done to improve school readiness for a greater number of children. How can we work strategically to reduce factors that are often barriers to positive early childhood development such as teen births or

increasing prenatal care or maternal education? What can we do to ensure that children receive high-quality care and education during their first five years of life? Where can the application of limited resources have the biggest impact?

Finally, as appropriate indicators were considered for inclusion in this report, it was apparent that some data gaps exist. Are there critical factors that impact school readiness for which data are not now collected? Does the lack of such data hamper the ability to make smart, strategic, effective policy changes? We must acknowledge the data gaps, determine which missing information is most crucial, assess the barriers and cost of obtaining those data, and make the wisest policy decisions to strengthen our database.

At the state and local levels, a spotlight on quality school readiness indicators is an important step in shaping policy that improves outcomes for children, families and the Commonwealth as a whole. The School Readiness Indicators Initiative will continue to promote the use of quality data every two years to raise awareness, allow for the tracking of progress, and aid in the development of policy that improves school readiness.

As Governor Mark Warner has stated: "In the crucial first years of a child's life, we have a unique opportunity to lay the foundation for lifelong learning and achievement. The obstacles are daunting and the stakes enormous, but it's time that we put Virginia's youngest children first."

The Virginia School Readiness Indicators Report is a step forward in seizing this important window of opportunity. The future of the Commonwealth will be shaped by how we shape our children. There is no time to waste.



Acknowledgements

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Curry School of Education, The University of Virginia

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Virginia Department of Education

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3. Teen Births:

Virginia Department of Health

<http://www.vdh.state.va.us>

4. Maternal Education:

Virginia Department of Health

<http://www.vdh.state.va.us>

5. Prenatal Care:

Virginia Department of Health

<http://www.vdh.state.va.us/HealthStats/stats.asp>

6. Low Birth Weights:

Virginia Department of Health

<http://www.vdh.state.va.us>

7. Children Living in Poverty:

U.S. Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov> (Tables P87 SF3; PCT50 SF3; P14 SF1)

8. Child Abuse/Neglect:

Virginia Department of Social Services

http://www.dss.state.va.us/pub/pdf/dispo_by_child_2002.pdf

also: Virginia Center for Health Statistics

<http://www.vdh.state.va.us/healthstats/stats.asp>

9. Elevated Lead Levels:

Virginia Department of Health

also: Virginia Center for Health Statistics

<http://www.vdh.state.va.us/healthstats/stats.asp>

10. Child Health Insurance:

Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services

<http://www.famis.org>

11. Foster Care:

Virginia Department of Social Services

12. Child Care Subsidies:

Virginia Department of Social Services

also: Virginia Center for Health Statistics

<http://www.vdh.state.va.us/healthstats/stats.asp>

13. Early Intervention:

Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, Infant and Toddler Connection

14. Preschool Special Education:

Virginia Department of Education

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us>

15. Head Start and Early Head Start:

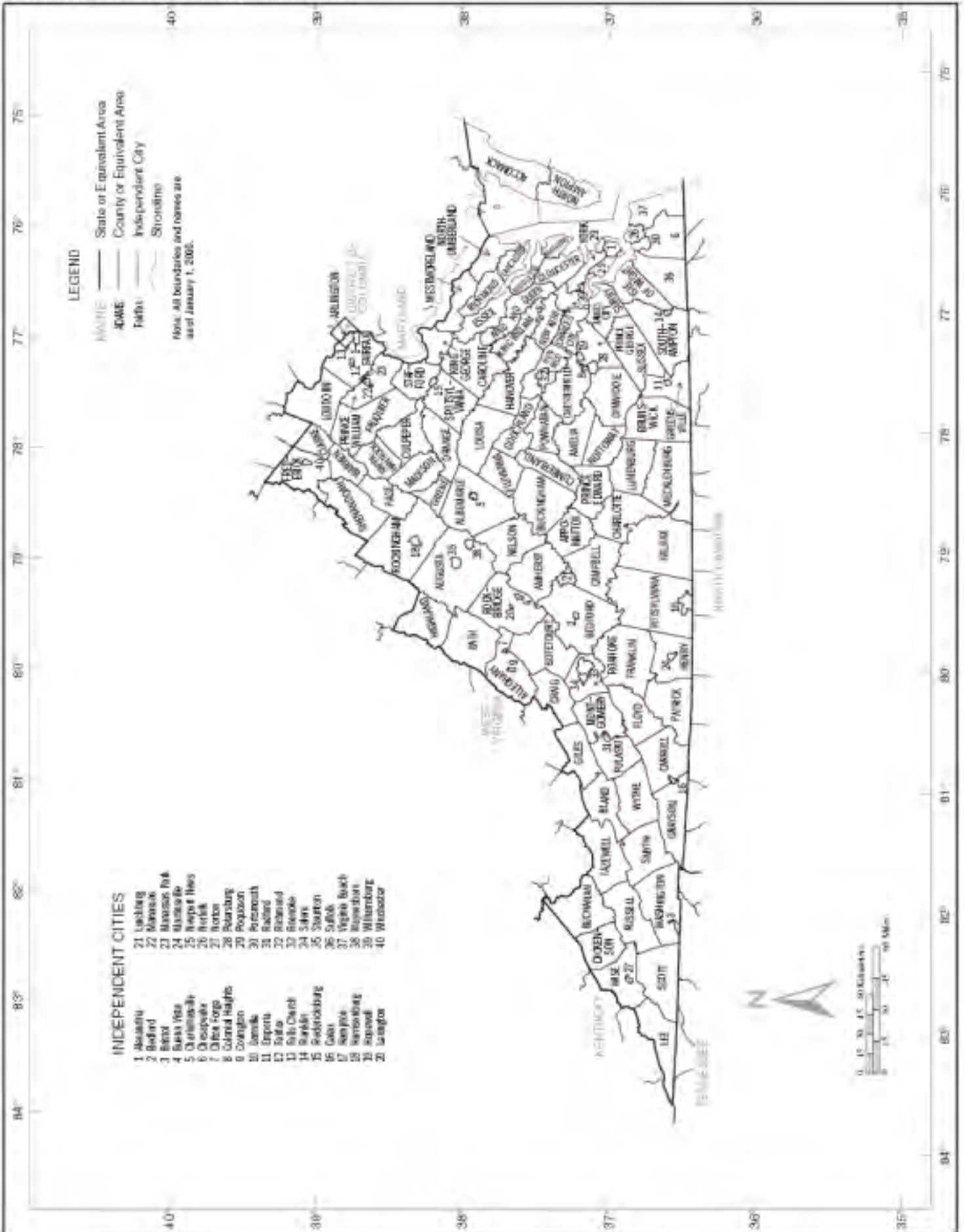
Virginia Department of Social Services, Head Start Collaborative

16. At-Risk 4 Year Olds:

Virginia Department of Education

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us>

VIRGINIA - Counties and Independent Cities



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For information, contact the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Commonwealth of Virginia, 804-786-7765.

Additional copies of this data book may be downloaded from www.vakids.org, Voices for Virginia's Children, 804-649-0184.

